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AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

February 26, 2015 | Vol. 36, No. 51 | \$1.00

www.agawamadvertiser.turley.com

HIGH SCHOOL

Legacy on track

By Mike Lydick
aan@turley.com

The running track at Agawam High School, installed when the school was built in 1955, is in such poor condition that student athletes haven't used it for competitions for more than a decade.

That will all change this spring when work begins to replace the 60-year-old track, sports fields, and bleachers. And the person who has been a driving force behind helping to transform the aging athletic facility into a modern sports complex will be honored by having the new running track named after him.

Lou Conte, the retired athletic director at AHS, has been advocating for new sports facilities for 15 years. At its Feb. 24 meeting, the School Committee voted unanimously to recognize his efforts by approving a resolution to name the track the "Louis Conte Track."

Diane Juzba, committee vice chairman, proposed a resolution to "memorialize" Conte's years of "hard work" to improve athletic facilities at AHS.

CONTE | page 6



Lou Conte was an advocate for the new track that may bear his name – and for the athletes who will use it

Mementos from Lou Conte's 35-year education career in Agawam line the walls at his Feeding Hills home. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

AUTISM AWARENESS

Bonavita takes his struggles to speaking circuit

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Last Wednesday night, Mario Bonavita gave a great lecture on the struggles of autism in front of a small crowd at the New England Business Associates office on the campus Springfield Technical Community College.

Bonavita has high-functioning autism. He is a 2010 graduate of Agawam High School and attended Berkshire Hills Music Academy.

His mother, Angela Bonavita, said he when returned home from Berkshire Hills, he was hoping to develop a career in public speaking and raise more awareness for autism.

Now 24, Mario Bonavita has been involved in several speaking engagements, including local speeches in front of the Agawam School Committee.

"We hope that parents will hear him and learn more about autism, and those that have kids



Mario Bonavita gives a lecture on autism at Springfield Technical Community College last Wednesday night. Bonavita, a 2010 Agawam High School graduate, has autism and has taken up public speaking to raise awareness. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

with autism will support him," said Angela Bonavita.

Mario Bonavita said he started learning how to speak publicly in order to first inform his family and friends about autism, which is not a disease, but a neurological disorder that can affect sensory and social abilities as well as

learning.

His father, John Bonavita, says Mario is very smart, but requires some support for social interaction. The public speaking engagements have helped him build confidence.

BONAVITA | page 5

CITY COUNCIL

Auditor job description tabled

Differing rules for employee comp time

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The Agawam City Council has tabled a discussion about an updated job description for their auditor as they seek more information about compensation time for meeting attendance.

During the past two months, the City Council has been working with its current auditor, Cheryl St. John, to update her job description to more accurately reflect the duties she is currently handling.

The council agreed on most of the updates to the job description, but raised questions when it came whether St. John or future auditor should receive compensation time if asked to attend a City Council meeting or subcommittee meeting.

During the Legislative Subcommittee meeting held on Feb. 11, members of the subcommittee

agreed she should have the compensation time because it is in the administrative union contract and other department heads receive that benefit.

"If it is something the other department heads are getting, then I am in favor of it," said Councilor Robert Rossi.

The auditor position is appointed every year by the council. St. John was just recently reappointed.

According to the language of the job description, St. John would not receive any monetary compensation for attending a night meeting, but would have the option to go to into work late or take time off equivalent to the time she spends at meetings.

Council President Christopher Johnson said he was unsure if it was legal to give St. John such a perk because her salary is set by ordinance. Councilor Joseph

TIME | page 6

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Take a day trip with St. John's Travelers

The St. John's Travelers of St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main St., Agawam, will host a day trip to the Aqua Turf Club for a performance of "Women of Ireland" on Tuesday, March 10.

Tickets are \$92 per person and include round-trip motor coach transportation, lunch at the Aqua Turf Club, a matinee performance and driver's gratuity. The menu will be a family-style luncheon of tossed salad, pasta with meat sauce, sliced corned beef and baked scrod, rolls and butter, vegetable and potato, dessert, coffee and tea.

The bus will depart St. John's at 10 a.m. and will return at 4 p.m. For reservations, contact Emile Cote at 413-335-9440.

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this newspaper**

Snow account falls into deficit

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Mayor Richard Cohen is not sure if he will have to dip into the reserve fund or free cash in order to reconcile the snow and ice removal budget for fiscal year 2015.

Cohen said Monday he is still compiling the total cost of the last two storms, including the snowfall late Saturday into Sunday, Feb. 21-22.

With all the "plowable events" that have occurred during the winter season, many of them happening during the past four weeks, Cohen says he is unsure exactly how far over budget the town will go.

"Without the last two storms," said Cohen, "we are about \$26,000 in the hole. Much of that has happened recently."

On Feb. 5, Council President Christopher Johnson called a special meeting of the Agawam City Council in order to approve deficit-spending of the snow and ice budget. Snow removal is the only municipal function that is allowed to spend beyond its budget, although the money does have to be "paid back" later.

"They had to cancel the Feb. 2 meeting because of snow, and the deficit spending was on that agenda," said Cohen. "The council president reached out to me asked if he should hold a special meeting."

Cohen is pleased the council approved the deficit spending for the second straight year.

"It has been another tough winter in town," said Cohen. "We have gotten a lot of snow and our DPW crews have had to do a lot of work on nights and weekends to keep the roads open."

Cohen said the timing of the snowstorms — many of which have been during nights and weekends when the Depart-

ment of Public Works would typically be closed — has increased the cost.

"We have had a lot of storms that have been long-duration storms and a lot of them on the weekends," said Cohen. "It costs us more to have the equipment on the road. But public safety is our top priority and making sure our roads are safe for the public."

Cohen also said a big mark-up in the price of salt has driven up the budget. The price of salt has increased from \$59 per ton to \$78 per ton.

Department of Public Works Superintendent Christopher Golba agreed salt has been the biggest spending issue for the town. He said one storm in January cost the town about \$30,000 just in salt.

"When we do our first sprinkling of salt," said Golba. "We send out seven trucks each with about eight tons of salt to do the initial coating on all the town roads."

Snow removal has not been a huge issue for the town yet. Golba says the town does have a couple of options for snow movement. It can be trucked and brought to Tuckahoe Turf Farm, where the town owns property, as well as Shea Park. Neither location requires permitting because they are not near wetland, Golba said.

One thing Cohen is asking of residents as winter winds down is for residents to help the Fire Department in moving snow away from fire hydrants.

"Our firefighters have been out working to clear out hydrants," said Cohen. "If people could 'adopt' fire hydrants near their homes and clear them, it would really help us out."

There is no law in Agawam requiring residents to clear fire hydrants located on their property.

Children's classic opens at Red Door

"Charlotte's Web" is the next offering at the Red Door Theatre, presented as part of STAGE'S after-school theatre camp. The cast of 15 local theatre enthusiasts will present Joseph Robinette's adaptation of E.B. White's classic children's story this weekend, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 27-28, at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, March 1, at 2 p.m.

The play revolves around the adventures of Wilbur, the irresistible young pig who desperately wants to avoid the butcher. Charlotte, an extraordinary spider, befriends the newcomer to Zuckerman's barn. She is determined to save Wilbur with a campaign of web-writing miracles that has the whole community attending the local fair to see the "humble, terrific" pig.

It's a beautiful, knowing play about friendship and sacrifice that will endear families young and old to all the characters of Zuckerman's farm. Tickets are \$9 and may be reserved by calling 413-789-2026.

For more information on this and other upcoming productions, visit red-doortheatre.com.

K of C schedules blood drive

The Knights of Columbus will hold a blood drive to benefit Mercy Medical Center's blood bank, Tuesday, March 10, from 2 to 6 p.m. at St. John's Church, 833 Main St., Agawam. For more information, call 413-786-3091.

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Cathedral, Holyoke Catholic HS merger announced

Diocese weighing options on where to build new facility

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

SPRINGFIELD — On Monday afternoon, students at Holyoke Catholic learned they may be asked to attend a different school building next year.

The Most Rev. Mitchell Rozanski, bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield, announced during a press conference he plans to merge Cathedral High School of Springfield with Holyoke Catholic High School, currently located in downtown Chicopee near Elms College.

Rozanski said during the press conference that he has considered numerous options, but nothing specific has been decided, including a site for the combined school.

Rozanski did say by the fall of 2016, he wanted students from both schools going to one temporary location. He did not say if it would at Holyoke Catholic's current location at the old Assumption School on Springfield Street, Chicopee, or at the current temporary location for Cathedral, the old Memorial School in Wilbraham.

Cathedral currently has approximately 220 students, down from about 400 students prior to a tornado that hit Springfield on June 1, 2011, and destroyed Cathedral's longtime school building on Surrey Street in the East Forest Park section of Springfield.

Rozanski held a press conference to announce his plans after spending several months considering different options and consulting with stakeholders that would potentially be involved.

He said he met with the board at Holyoke Catholic.

"Their location [in Chicopee] is not a long-term place for a high school," the bishop said. "I hope that a new school is built in two and half years."

While Cathedral's building fell victim to a natural disaster, Holyoke Catholic has been on the move for several years now.

Catholic was located in downtown Holyoke for many years, but was moved in 2002 when the school building was declared unsafe for occupancy.

The school then moved to the campus of the former St. Hyacinth College and Seminary in Granby for four years. Since 2006, Holyoke Catholic has been in Chicopee.

The Springfield Diocese has been renting the Memorial School in Wilbraham for Cathedral since the tornado hit. Last year, demolition work began at the old Cathedral building and many stakeholders are advocating for the school to be rebuilt on the same site.

U.S. Rep. Richard Neal, D-Springfield, helped secure \$29 million in Federal Emergency Management Agency help to rebuild the school. Neal has gone on record saying he believes the school should be rebuilt in its previous location.

At the press conference, Rozanski said a study would be done to determine the best location for the new Catholic high school.

Following the press conference, a group identified as Committee for Cathedral Action released a statement stating they were pleased to see a new school would be built, but want the school building to remain in Springfield with Holyoke Catholic students moving to the Springfield site.

"Cathedral High School is a Springfield school," the CCA stated. "The main target audience is and always has been Springfield families who are looking for an educational alternative."

CCA also states Springfield is central to many of the towns students are coming from to attend Cathedral.

Mary Ann Linnehan, interim principal of Holyoke Catholic, is optimistic the merger could work.

Rozanski said it is possible St. Mary's High School in Westfield would be included in the merger. Holyoke Catholic currently has 245 students; St. Mary's has 127 students.



Pictured with Agawam's Municipal Blue Award, from left, are Coleen Gruska, town personnel director; Sandra Stankiewicz, Blue Cross account executive; Mayor Richard Cohen; and Mark Meunier, Blue Cross director of municipal markets. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Town lowers health costs, gets \$5K grant

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts recently named Agawam one of the winners of its seventh annual Municipal Blue Awards, and recipient of a \$5,000 wellness grant.

According to Mayor Richard Cohen, the award follows the town's conversion of retirees to a new Medex drug plan, representing savings of thousands of dollars for taxpayers. It represents the first time Agawam has won this award. Cohen said he was "very excited to be the only Western Massachusetts community to receive this grant."

In a statement issued by Blue Cross, Cohen went on to say: "We are honored to partner with Blue Cross, as they offer a wide range of products and support our communications efforts. Our town cares deeply about employee benefits and the health and wellness of all our employees, retirees and our residents. The grant will allow us to continue to create new and innovative initiatives for healthy living."

The Municipal Blue Awards highlight the new and inventive cost containment measures, collaborative and customized worksite wellness programs, and innovative health plan designs utilized by municipalities throughout the state. Nearly

80 percent of Massachusetts municipal entities are Blue Cross customers.

"Municipalities chose us because we understand that as one of the largest line items in their budget, the rising cost of health care is an increasing burden," said Larry Croes, Blue Cross vice president of commercial and municipal markets. "By collaborating around inventive cost containment measures, customizing worksite wellness programs, and creating innovative health plan designs, significant savings can be achieved. Agawam should be lauded for their efforts to advance the health of their workforce and town residents."

Cohen credited the town's Insurance Advisory Committee, which consists of representatives for the local municipal unions and a representative of the town's retirees, for "working well with myself and the Blue Cross to control the rising cost of health care."

He added that because of the cooperation of Blue Cross, town employees and unions, negotiations for health costs in fiscal 2016 are "encouraging," despite a mandatory base 2.1 percent increase because of costs associated with the Affordable Care Act, or "Obamacare."

Grange to host tag, bake sale

Community Grange 382, at 47 N. West St., Feeding Hills, will hold an indoor "Cabin Fever Tag and Bake Sale" on Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the building fund. Snow date is March 21.

UPS honors 'elite' Agawam driver

UPS announced last week that 28 elite drivers from Massachusetts, including Richard Howe of Agawam, are among 1,445 newly-inducted worldwide into the Circle of Honor, an honorary organization for UPS drivers who have achieved 25 or more years of accident-free driving.

Massachusetts boasts 120 active Circle of Honor drivers with a combined 3,310 years of accident-free driving. There are 2,266 total UPS drivers in Massachusetts.

Globally, 7,878 active UPS drivers are members of the Circle of Honor. Collectively they've racked up more than 221,000 years and more than 5.3 billion safe miles during their careers. That's enough miles to travel to Mars and back 36 times.

"My thanks go to all of them for their dedication and focus, and for the countless lives they've saved," said Ivy Brown, president, UPS Northeast District.

Free seminar for homebuyers

Keller Williams Realty, Inc., 360 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills, will host a free home-buying seminar Tuesday, March 10, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. For more information, call 413-519-2014 or email tiffanyMsmith@kw.com.



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Opinion

OUR VIEW

Think before you post to social media

If you've been following local TV news, our regional daily newspaper or — if you're like most people — your own Facebook feed, you know what happens when someone makes a dumb decision near a smartphone.

The most recent example, the one blowing up on social media this month, was at the Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics Polar Plunge, Feb. 14 in Wilbraham. In addition to the several human participants in the event, which features people jumping into a frozen pond, someone's dog was pushed into the icy water. And someone else was there to record it for the world to see on a mobile phone. Commentators all over the world chimed in with outrage over what some called a clear case of animal cruelty. Words were, to say the least, heated, with some wishing harm on the dog's owner, some claiming a police cover-up, and others defending the owner.

It's during times like this where the positives and negatives of social media are made abundantly clear: It gives everyone a forum to express their feelings, it allows information to circumnavigate the globe in seconds, makes it difficult for people to separate between fact and fiction, and the words remain forever visible for the world to see.

Over the past 20 years, the world has changed drastically. While the current TV commercial featuring former "Today Show" hosts Katie Couric and Bryant Gumbel stumbling over the "@" symbol and asking their producer what "the Internet is" may be comical to the younger generations, until 1995 the U.S. government actually had restrictions on commercial traffic through the Web. Until the early 2000s, most homes didn't even have access to a computer.

Flash forward to 2015, and a little town in Hampden County is the center of people's attention as far away as Australia and was even featured on news stations in Boston. Thanks to the Internet and social media.

The Wilbraham Police Department shut down its department Facebook page on Feb. 17, also thanks to the ballooning worldwide outrage and controversy. Wilbraham Police Capt. Timothy Kane told the Wilbraham-Hampden Times that the decision was based largely due to the high volume of commentary that flooded their computers with such frequency that they could not control the situation. He said that they were receiving profanity-laced comments nearly every 30 seconds.

It's interesting and sad, how quickly individuals resort to making attacks on other people, businesses and government without any regard for the consequences of their words. Just one or two wrong words and the commenters can lose friends, isolate family and find themselves the center of criminal investigations.

Growing up, we were taught to treat others the way we wanted to be treated and to think before opening our mouths (which we admit still gets us into trouble). This of course does not always make for juicy press or spark debate, but perhaps parents are on to something. In a digital age, it means asking ourselves — before clicking "Post" — is this really what we intended to say? Is this really who we are? Is this really how we want to look when the entire world is watching?

What do you think? Send your letter to the editor to aan@turley.com.

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JAY SPEAKS

Truth shows up in bad behavior

Kitty and I read the morning newspaper as we breakfast at home. She reads the horoscope during the meal, and usually they will suggest that one will have a good day, but will end with a caution, e.g., "Be careful in trusting people, they might fool you."

Not too long ago, it hit us with a vengeance. We were invited to a get together at Kitty's friend Ellen's house. While there we were introduced to Keith and Erin, newcomers to this area. Both were quite personable and we got along well.

A few months later, when we had an occasion to invite people over, we included the newcomers, Keith and Erin. This happened two or three other times, so we were not surprised when we received a call from Keith saying, "You two have been so nice including us in everything, that we want you to be our guests for dinner at the Delaney House this coming Saturday." We agreed and set a time to meet.

Kitty and I got there a little early and ordered a drink while we were waiting. We commented on how fortunate we were to meet such a nice couple. Keith and Erin arrived and we were escorted to our table. Keith seemed to take over. He ordered a bottle of excellent wine for the table.

We looked over the menu and Keith suggested that we order a shrimp appetizer because he had a special wine to go with the shrimp. Sounded pretty good to us.

Once that course was cleared, Keith asked the waiter to bring us sherbert to clear our palate before ordering the main course. By this time, we were mightily impressed. Keith then proposed that we all order prime roast beef because he had a superb wine to go with the beef.

Our conversations with Keith and Erin took us on a world-wide discussion of all their travels along with their food and wine preferences. We were good listeners.

As the waiter cleared our platters, Keith

again asked him to bring sherbert to clear our palates.

Although we were quite full, Keith insisted that we try a variety of desserts because he had a great dessert wine to go with our choices. One bite of each was all we could muster. Keith mentioned that "wasn't it a shame" that smoking was not allowed. He loved to smoke a cigar after a great meal like the one we were exposed to.

As the waiter cleared the dessert dishes, Keith ordered a sweet minty cordial to end the meal. As we sipped the brandy, I was tabulating, in my mind, how much this meal would cost. I then shook it off because we were invited guests.

Several minutes later, the waiter came by with the folio containing the dinner check. We continued our conversations about other dining spots. The folio sat in the middle of the table. Keith continued to ignore it. I could not take my eyes off it. Keith and Erin ignored it.

The waiter came by a couple of times asking if there was anything he could do for us. Keith said no. After a few more uncomfortable minutes, Keith picked up the folio with a flourish, pointed it at me and said, "We're sharing this aren't we?"

I was staggered, and my first thought was to take Kitty's hand and walk out of the restaurant without looking back. But then I visualized all the alarms going off and everyone chasing us through the parking lot.

However, I reached into my wallet, pulled out the proper card and dropped it on the table. We never saw Keith and Erin again. I should have listened to my horoscope.

Jay Berger is retired from a job in publishing and lives in Agawam with his wife Kitty. They have three children and six grandchildren.



Jay Berger
Guest Columnist

Are You Old News?

Each week the Agawam Advertiser News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured. Email your answers by Monday at noon to aan@turley.com. Please include your first and last name.

Last week's photo: Correctly identifying Christine Jerski were Ann Marie Perry, Norma Turcotte and John Palazzi.



PHONE
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EMAIL
Advertising Sales
John Baskin
jbaskin@turley.com

Managing Editor
Michael J. Ballway
mballway@turley.com

Office Manager
Teri Machia
aan@turley.com

Subscriptions
Charlann Griswold
cgriswold@turley.com

\$35 per year pre-paid
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The *Agawam Advertiser News* (USPS 001-170) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.

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COUNCIL AGENDA

City Council meeting

Roberta G. Doering School
68 Main St.
Monday, March 2
7 p.m.

- A. Roll call
- B. Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Citizen's Speak Time
- D. Minutes
- 1. Regular council meeting – Feb. 17, 2015
- E. Declaration from council president
- F. Presentation of Petitions and Resolutions
- 1. TR-2015-4- A Resolution approving the revised job description for the council-appointed auditor position (Council) (Tabled 2/5/15) (Referred to Legislative Committee)
- 2. TR-2015-11- A Resolution confirming the appointment of Violet Baldwin, 1245 Main St., Agawam, MA 01001 to the Planning Board to a term expiring Jan. 1, 2018 (Mayor)
- 3. TR-2015-12- A Resolution confirming the appointment of F. William Euliano, Jr., 38 High Meadow Road, Feeding Hills, MA 01030 to the Board of Health to a term expiring the first Monday in February 2018 (Mayor)

- 4. TR-2015-13- A Resolution confirming the appointment of Ronald J. Hamel, 52 Federal Ave., Agawam, MA to the Agawam Veteran's Council to a term expiring April 1, 2018 (Mayor)
- G. Report of council committees
- H. Elections
- I. Public Hearings
- 1. PH-2015-1 (TOR-2015-1)- An Ordinance to amend the Code of the Town of Agawam to add section 180-95A to assist the council in zone change requests involving the Wireless Telecommunications Overlay District (Councilors Rossi, Letellier and Perry) (Tabled 2/17/15) (Referred to Legislative Committee)
- J. Old Business
- 1. TO-2015-10- Voucher List for \$404.98 (Council)
- 2. TO-2015-11- An order granting or renewing a Class 2 Dealer's License for Auto Point Motors, 1039 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 (Clerk) (Referred by Administrative Committee)
- 3. TO-2015-12- Voucher list for \$2056.87 (Council)
- K. New Business: Unavailable at press time.
- L. Any other matter that may legally come before the city council.
- Adjournment

Corned beef dinner to benefit St. Pat's Committee

The Agawam St. Patrick's Committee will host its annual Corned Beef Fund-raiser Dinner Monday, March 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St.

The night's events will include celebrating the 15th anniversary of the committee

and the presentation of the 2015 Colleen and court. There will also be raffle prizes.

Tickets, which are only available in advance, may be purchased by contacting Kerri O'Connor at 413-575-3582 or Diane Pirnie at 413-786-9341. Prices are \$12 for adults and \$7 for children.

AUTISM from page 1

"It really helps break barriers while offering people a lot of perspective into what he is deals with," said John Bonavita.

During his brief speaking career, Mario has been invited to the Massachusetts State House. While there, he advocated to state legislators for more public funding for adults developmental disabilities. He was invited after he and several supporters for more funding reacted to former Gov. Deval Patrick's funding cuts.

He has also spoken at Agawam Junior High School and to other young adult groups.

"We are hoping that his public speaking work builds up and that he can speak to bigger crowds," said Angela Bonavita. "But it is all dependent on his comfort level and how well he can handle it."

NEBA is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting people with disabilities

overcome the challenges of trying to find gainful and sustained employment. Bonavita has been working with the NEBA for a while now. He talk last Wednesday was the first of a few "parent nights" to distribute information about autism.

During his speech, he described three levels of autism. There are those that need of some supports, those in need of substantial supports, and those in need of "very substantial supports."

Bonavita was asked how he describes himself. He responded saying he was a Level 1 severity, requiring some supports.

His main message was to remind people that he and many other autistic people are normal people.

"I'm a typical young man," said Bonavita. "I may not always understand or say things in socially expected ways. But with support, I continue to learn."

Humason reappointed to Ways and Means

BOSTON — Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr, R-Gloucester, has reappointed state Sen. Donald Humason Jr., R-Westfield, to the Senate Ways and Means Committee, where Humason will serve for his second consecutive term.

The committee is responsible for considering all matters relating to the finances of the commonwealth and related matters. Humason was re-elected in November in the 2nd Hampden and Hampshire District, which includes Agawam.

Tarr also appointed Humason to several other Senate and joint committees:

- Senate Committee on Bonding Capital Expenditures and State Assets, on which Humason is the ranking Republican member
- Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs
- Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities

- Joint Committee on Education
- Joint Committee on Public Service
- Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs

"I am pleased that Senator Tarr has the confidence in my abilities to appoint me to serve on these important legislative committees for the upcoming session," said Humason said. "I look forward to the work ahead, and to the numerous public hearings and debate on all the pertinent pieces of legislation. I am especially eager to use my positions on these key committees to the benefit of my constituents in Western Massachusetts."

Humason encourages constituents to contact him at his district office at 64 Noble St., Westfield, MA 01085, 413-568-1366; or his Boston office, State House, Room 213A, Boston, MA 02133, 617-722-1415. His email address is Donald.Humason@MASenate.gov.

YMCA leader receives community award

SPRINGFIELD — YMCA of Greater Springfield President and CEO Kirk Ray Smith was honored at the fifth annual Lift Every Voice Lecture Series in celebration of Black History Month.

Smith received this year's Community Recognition Award in recognition of his outstanding achievements in youth and family support and development.



Kirk Ray Smith

"We are pleased to honor a man who has dedicated his life to serving youth and families," said Bishop Talbert Swan, Lift Every Voice series host. "Kirk is a hard-working advocate for those who need support and a consummate humanitarian. His work embodies what is best in our community."

"Receiving this honor is near and dear to my heart," said Smith. "It is always special to be recognized for any accomplishment, but to receive this award during Black History Month truly means a great deal to me."

The award was presented on Feb. 24 at the Spring of Hope Church of God in Christ. The Lift Every Voice series began as a vision

to celebrate the rich legacy of African Americans and to bring communities together to raise critical issues that affect society and to offer solutions.

Smith serves as the president and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Springfield — the largest YMCA association in Western Massachusetts (the second oldest in the U.S. and fourth oldest in the world) with over 1,200 staff and volunteers serving 115,000 members and participants. The YMCA of Greater Springfield opened a branch in Agawam last year. Since 2002, Smith has also served as CEO and founder of Kirk Smith Unlimited & Associates LLC, a company committed to helping organizations, individuals and families become stronger and of even greater value to the world. The organization helps nonprofits become unlimited in their ability to realize their vision and purpose. This is done primarily through proven executive disciplines and practical business models.

Irish music sextet to play next month

The Agawam Cultural Council's Applause Series continues on Friday, March 6, at 7 p.m. when the sextet Banish Misfortune performs a program of traditional Irish music at the Agawam Senior Center. Instrumentation of the group includes fiddle, concertina, mandolin, accordion, flute, and guitar, with which they perform rousing sets of jigs, reels, hornpipes, waltzes, polkas and airs, as well as the occasional inspired song or accompanied Irish poem. All of the group's members hail from west-

ern Massachusetts, some having played together for decades.

This event is sponsored by Bridgeport National Bindery.

The Agawam Senior Center is located at 954 Main St. and can be reached by phone at 413-821-0604. This and all Applause Series events are free and open to the public.

More information on each of the Applause Series events is available at www.agawamcc.org.

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Presidential Primer: A Review of the Obama Administration MAR. 10, 10 AM–NOON

Home Sweet Investment: Increasing Your Home's Value Before You Sell APR. 14, 10 AM–NOON

From Garden to Table: A Celebrated Chef Creates with Summer Herbs MAY 19, 10 AM–NOON

Finding Your Roots: Genealogy 101 JUN. 30, 10 AM–NOON

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Programs are free and open to the public, but space is limited and reservations are required. For locations or to enroll, call 413.567.7800 or e-mail learning@glenmeadow.org. Visit glenmeadow.org/learning.

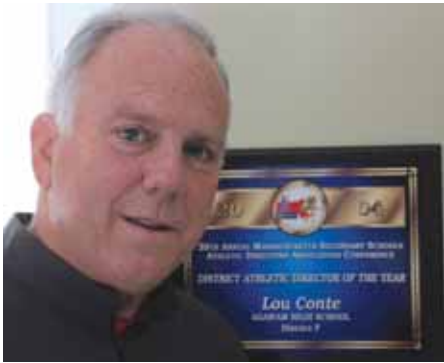
CONTE ■ from page 1

“As long as I’ve been on the committee — about 12 years — Lou has been trying to accomplish this goal. And he’s been doing it for the sake of our kids so they will have modern-day sports facilities,” added Juzba.

An Agawam native and AHS graduate, Conte began his 35-year career in the district in 1975 as a physical education teacher. He was appointed director of athletics, physical education and student activities at AHS in 2000 — the year Conte began trying to get the track and athletic fields renovated.

The track especially concerned Conte. Despite the work of the maintenance department to keep the track in good condition, as each year went by it deteriorated more and more. About a decade ago, students stopped using the track for competitions because it could no longer be properly maintained to modern standards.

Conte retired in 2011 with his goal of a new track and athletic facility unfulfilled. Retirement, however, did not stop him. With dogged determination, Conte continued to pursue what had become a



Lou Conte — shown with one of several awards he received while athletic director at AHS. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

daunting task.

“I couldn’t give up on it — our kids and our town deserve a better sports facility,” said Conte. “Everything from the fence to the bleachers is more than a half-century old. It’s well past time to replace it all.”

In 2012, Conte began to see some progress when he was appointed to head a committee formed to explore how to replace the antiquated track. He jokingly said he became chairman because “no one else raised their hand.”

Benefit for entire town

In a more serious tone, Conte said a new athletic facility is the “culmination of great members who had one vision: bring to our town what has long been needed. It’s not just a track project, but a town project that all residents will be proud of and will enjoy.”

Renovations will include new bleachers, new lighting, new concession and ticket booths, a new baseball field on the north side of the school, and new tennis and basketball courts. Inside, both girls’ and boys’ locker rooms will be completely revamped and updated to current ADA standards.

Juzba said her resolution, co-sponsored by Shelley Reed and Wendy Rua, honors and recognizes Conte’s many years of service to the district, its athletes and its students.



In this photo, taken in the early 1990s, Lou Conte coaches an AHS student in baseball. SUBMITTED PHOTO

She called Conte a “humble” person who, during his career in Agawam, dedicated “countless hours” to students he coached and mentored in freshman baseball, freshman football, and varsity boys and girls basketball teams. Conte also served as assistant principal at what was then named Agawam Middle School (now the Roberta G. Doering School) from 1994 to 2000.

Juzba said she waited until funds had been authorized for construction before she proposed the renaming.

“Lou’s done so much for our kids and for this track endeavor,” she said. “I want him to be a huge part of it from the inception by dedicating the track to him this spring when we set forth on this wonderful, but long overdue project.”

Conte said he’s “a bit embarrassed” by what he called a “thoughtful” action. “There are many people who have given back to the town and who are as deserving — if not more so — of such an honor.”

While the track will be renamed for Conte, the sports field will remain the Harmon A. Smith Field. Smith was the legendary AHS football coach during the 1950s and 1960s and was named to the Massachusetts Football Coaches Hall of Fame.

Conte recalled Smith as a “living legend” who was “respected and revered by all.” Comparisons of Smith and Conte may be inevitable now that both will have their names attached to portions of the athletic facility. But Conte said he and the longtime football coach had distinctive careers that were positive in different ways.

Conte’s storied athletic career at AHS includes being named Massachusetts Secondary Schools Athletic Directors Association’s athletic director of the year twice — in 2004 and in 2010 — and receiving the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association’s Distinguished Service Award in 2011.

His proudest accomplishment, however, is the positive influence he’s had on AHS students — athletically and academically. Conte said he hopes this will be his most important legacy.

“I also truly enjoyed mentoring the many coaches who led our student athletes,” Conte said. “There’s always a desire to hope you’ve made a difference — and leave something behind that will leave a legacy.”

TIME ■ from page 1

Mineo, who is chair of the Finance Subcommittee, agreed, and proposed tabling the job description in order to do further research.

Following the meeting, Mayor Richard Cohen stated department heads do not receive any compensation time for attending meetings outside of working hours. The administrative union head, Town Clerk Richard Theroux, also confirmed that fact.

Johnson said the auditor’s salary is set by ordinance and attending meetings is part of the job requirements.

“I am not in favor of comp time for the auditor for attending meetings,” said Johnson.

Whom to inform

Johnson also clashed with some of his fellow councilors about his responsibility to inform them of rulings made by the council president in the event the auditor flags a questionable expenditure.

Councilor Paul Cavallo wanted to establish a protocol that requires the council president to inform the rest of the council about issues the auditor brings up.

“If the auditor flags something, then the rest of the council should be informed about what is done,” said Cavallo.

When the auditor informs the council president of an issue, the president has a number of options to take immediate action. Cavallo said he wants the president to inform the rest of the council what that action is within 48 hours.

After some brief discussion, Johnson proposed changing the language to “two business days” in order to account for weekends.

Cavallo said he wanted to the protocol in place in the event of something “catastrophic” happening.

Johnson says the council is always informed of any problem brought up by the auditor. Councilor James Cichetti said the Legislative Subcommittee simply wants to be informed of any action taken within a timely manner.

The council will have an opportunity to discuss the job description further at their March 2 meeting.

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Kudos for Conte

Retired AD praised for his years of devotion

By Mike Lydick
aan@turley.com

Respected. Humble. Passionate. Caring. Diligent. Leader. These are just some of the words used to describe Lou Conte — the retired athletic director at AHS for whom the new running track at the school will be named when construction begins this spring.

Diane Juzba, Shelley Reed and Wen-

dy Rua are the three School Committee members who proposed and co-sponsored a resolution approved by the committee on Feb. 24 to authorize this name change. They, along with Mayor Richard Cohen (who chairs the school committee) and Superintendent William Sapelli, were asked why Conte deserves this honor.

Here, in their own words, is what they said.

Diane Juzba

Lou Conte has done so much in terms of coaching kids and in supporting this endeavor to renovate the high school's track. He spent 35 years in our school system — that's dedication. He's a wonderful man who is well-respected in the community. Even in retirement he's still a big part of our school, even though he's not there every day.

Lou still supports our kids and is always at the games cheering them on. When people retire, many of them move on or move away, and we don't see them anymore. But Lou is still here. He's still supporting our kids in every way. He's worked so hard on this project. He wants our kids to have good track.



Shelley Reed

Lou Conte's work as an athletic director is just as important as his work on the track. He's been working with the children of Agawam since I was in high school. He's made a tremendous difference and he's been a positive influence for many, many children.

Lou started this project many years ago and knows it inside and out. Over the years, he's done much research on the project and what is good for Agawam. I witnessed him discussing the possibility of a new track at a meeting. You could see his passion for the project. He wasn't taking "No" for an answer.

Lou truly cares about Agawam and has much pride in what he does. He should be honored for what he has done for the town and for his work on the track. He's a true leader.

Wendy Rua

When I was a student, Lou Conte was one of my gym teachers. He was the kind of person who one could never forget because the lessons he taught all of us had more to do with real-life lessons than simply teaching us the rules of a game for gym class.

He's always been a leader, a role model, and a positive example of a person who truly cared about his students. His career gave him an opportunity to give back to the community and even once he retired, he has continued to do just that.

Lou Conte has given his time and his talents far beyond what is measurable. He does so without seeking recognition or payment. For all his years of service to his students, his town, and his community, I support naming the track in his honor.



Mayor Richard Cohen

Lou Conte has been instrumental in helping to get this project funded and completed for a long time. He's been working diligently on this for numerous years and to see it finally come to fruition is largely because of his devotion, dedication, and desire to work compatibly with all involved to achieve the final results of this great project for our entire community to enjoy. As chairperson of the Track Facility Ad Hoc Committee, he has done an excellent job in leading the way for this large, important project. He is most deserving of this honor.

Supt. William Sapelli

Lou is highly respected by everyone who knows him. Today it is highly unusual for an individual to spend their entire career in one school district like he did. Lou is and always has been committed to the students and to the town. Agawam has been very fortunate to have Lou Conte — a person who exemplifies integrity and dedication to the residents and students.



Seniors

Agawam Senior Center

LUNCH MENU

Monday, March 2: Swedish meatballs over egg noodles, buttered sweet corn, apples.

Tuesday, March 3: Cream of broccoli soup, low-sodium ham salad on a roll, three-bean salad, birthday cake.

Wednesday, March 4: Grilled chicken with pineapple salsa, island rice, peas, ambrosia.

Thursday, March 5: Swiss burger, macaroni salad, lettuce and tomato, mixed fruit.

Friday, March 6: Baked fish, scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables, apricots.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, March 2: 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9 a.m., Painting Club; 9:30 a.m., Free hearing test by Ear Masters, Line Dancing; 10 a.m., Fallon Ins. Agent Available; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., Bingo; 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold.

Tuesday, March 3: 9 a.m., Exercise, Knitting

Class, Sewing Class; 10 a.m., Chair Exercise; 12:30 p.m., Ladies Billiards, Mah Jongg, Movie ("Must Love Dogs"); 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 2:30 p.m., Chorus Restarts; 4:30 p.m., Yoga; 6 p.m., Beginner Line Dance; 6:30 p.m., Evening Sewing Class.

Wednesday, March 4: 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 10 a.m., Friends Meeting; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Ballroom Lessons, Scrabble; 1:30 p.m., Golden Agers Chapter 2 Meeting; 6 p.m., Western Mass. Genealogy Group Meets.

Thursday, March 5: Free Tax Prep (by appointment only); 9:30 a.m., Quilting; 10 a.m., Line Dancing; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Pitch, Open Art Class; 2 p.m., Melody Band Practice; 6:30 p.m., Pitch, Evening Line Dancing.

Friday, March 6: 8 a.m., Yoga; 9:15 a.m., All Media Art; 10 a.m., Tai Chi; Noon, Canasta; 1 p.m., Pitch, Cribbage; 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold; 7 p.m., Agawam Cultural Council presents "Banish Misfortune."

Notes from the Music Room

By Darcy Davis

This year's spring concert by the Memory Lane Chorus of the Agawam Senior Center is on the theme of "Love." It is coming along great and with high hopes of an exceptional production, will have two performances at the senior Center on Friday, April 17. The first one is planned for 1 p.m. and a second one at 7 p.m.

As usual, there will be no charge, but a small donation will be taken to help with expenses of the production. There have

been about 20 prior concerts. I don't want to mention them all for fear of leaving things out, but they have included "Songs of World War II," "Songs of World War I," "Memories of Broadway," "Songs of Hollywood," "Songs of the Flag," "Country-Western Round-Up," "Songs of the Gilded Age," "Songs of Jerome Kern," "Songs of George Gershwin," "Songs of Rodgers and Hart," "Songs of Harry Warren," "Songs of Irving Berlin" (needed two for him), "Songs of Cole Porter," "Songs of the Hit Parade" and others.

Home options subject of upcoming seminar

The Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., will host a free seminar titled, "Is Your Home Too Big for You? — Is it Time to Downsize?" on Monday, March 16, at 1 p.m. Guest speaker for the event is Raymond Rose, real estate and finance expert.

There's no sales pitch or obligation, just information about planning your future and your health needs; determining what makes you happy; discovering if you home may be dangerous to your

physical and mental health; exploring housing options; resolving fears of moving; easy and no cost ways to de-clutter; how to sell your home and moving easily and pressure-free, and more.

Walk-ins are welcome, but registration is also available by calling 413-530-2186 (leave your name). Those that are unable to attend can have seminar notes mailed or emailed by calling the above number and leaving a name and address.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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Business

Business Q&A with mayor Tuesday

Agawam Mayor Richard Cohen will give a presentation on the state of the city and answer questions from local businesspeople Tuesday morning.

The West of the River Chamber of Commerce will host “Coffee with Mayor Cohen,” 8-9:30 a.m. on March 3 in the Community Room at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. This quarterly event is open to all

local businesses, not just Chamber members. Though it is free to attend, registration is requested at 413-426-3880, so the Chamber can provide the right amount of coffee and other refreshments.

The West of the River Chamber of Commerce represents businesses in Agawam and West Springfield. For more information, visit westoftheriverchamber.org.

Parish Cupboard seeks business support

WEST SPRINGFIELD — As part of its “Cash for the Cupboard Campaign,” the Parish Cupboard invites business supporters in West Springfield and Agawam to donate during March and April.

The Parish Cupboard, at 1023 Main St., West Springfield, is a registered nonprofit organization whose mission is to support needy families and individuals in West Springfield, Agawam and Feeding Hills through an emergency food program and a hot lunch program.

The goal of the fundraising campaign is to have 100 businesses donate \$100 each, equaling \$10,000, and 100 businesses each donating \$500, equaling \$50,000, which

would total \$60,000 from the business community alone.

These donations would allow the Parish Cupboard to increase services and outreach, improve the facility out of which it operates, and have more purchasing power for needed food and supplies.

“We know that the business world gets many requests for donations, and we understand that you cannot always do everything you’d like to do,” said Martha Tighe, Parish Cupboard executive director. “So, whatever you can give, please know how much it will be appreciated.”

For more information, call 413-734-7969.



Michael Nicora, at far left, is a trustee of the Massachusetts Board of Real Estate Appraisers. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Nicora named MBREA trustee

Agawam resident Michael Nicora was sworn in as a trustee of the Massachusetts Board of Real Estate Appraisers at the January meeting. Nicora has more than 20 years experience in the real estate appraisal profession and holds the RA designation from the MBREA. The MBREA was founded in 1934 is one of the oldest state associations

and is the only state appraisal association that has been named a sponsor of the Appraisal Foundation. Nicora resides in Agawam with his wife Paula and three children, Mikaela, Dominic and Camryn. He is the owner of Suburban Appraisal Company in Agawam.

Legals

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT January 29, 2015

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Public Library Community Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA on **Monday, March 9, 2015 at 6:30 PM** for all parties interested in the appeal of Mushy’s Golf Center, LLC which is appealing a decision of the Agawam Building Inspector as allowed under Section 2, paragraph C of the Town of Agawam’s “Adopted Charter” and MGL Ch 40A regarding parking at the premises identified as 369, 385 and 389 Main Street.

Doreen Prouty Chairperson
Agawam Board of Appeals
2/19,2/26/15

NOTICE NOTICE OF BALLOON FLIGHT BY BELL ATLANTIC MOBILE OF MASSACHUSETTS CORPORATION, LTD. d/b/a VERIZON WIRELESS

Bell Atlantic Mobile of Massachusetts Corporation, Ltd. d/b/a Verizon Wireless has filed an application for a special permit with the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals to erect a Personal Wireless Service Facility

consisting of a 100 ft. monopole tower and a 12 x 26 ft. equipment shelter on property located at 491 Mill Street in Agawam, Massachusetts shown on Assessor’s Map H10, Block 02, Lot 0017. Verizon Wireless will fly a balloon at the proposed site for public viewing on **Monday, March 2, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** In the event of inclement weather, the balloon flight will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 with a further backup date of Wednesday, March 4, 2015, at the same time. For any questions, contact Ellen W. Freyman, counsel to Verizon Wireless, at (413) 737-1131. 2/26/15

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. 14P0254
Estate of:
Dorothy A Nelsen
Date of Death:
March 13, 2004
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Jefford S Nelsen** of Newport Beach CA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate. **Jefford S Nelsen** of Newport Beach CA has been

informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 2/26/15

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD15P0261EA
Estate of:
John M.R. Chase, Sr.
Also Known As:**

John Michael Randolph Chase, Sr. Date of Death: December 22, 2014 NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE G.L. c. 190B, § 3-306

To all persons who have or may have some interest in the above-captioned estate and, if interested, to the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Veterans Affairs, notice is hereby given on **February 20, 2015**, that the Petitioner **Mary E. Bartley** of Chicopee MA, intends to file with the above-named Probate and Family Court, not sooner than seven (7) days after this notice, a Petition for Informal Probate of a Will, Petition for Informal Appointment of Personal Representative, to serve without surety on the bond **Mary E. Bartley** of Chicopee, MA.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition

the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 2/26/15

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD15P0226EA
Estate of:
Robert Joseph Torte
Date of Death: 05/20/2014
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons: A Petition has been filed by: **Benita Bandoski** of Feeding Hills MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order of testacy and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

And also requesting that: **Benita Bandoski** of Feeding Hills MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To

do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on 03/13/2015.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 13, 2015
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate

2/26/15

HOW TO SUBMIT LEGAL NOTICES

All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to klanier@turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legals for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271.

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Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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Public Safety

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 305 calls for service from Feb. 17 to Feb. 22. The department made four arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Wednesday, Feb. 18

Mark S. Tortoriello, 55, of 178 Maynard St., Feeding Hills, was arrested on charges of domestic assault and battery, assault and battery, and domestic strangulation.

Thursday, Feb. 19

Matthew Grise, 37, of 135 Fiberloid St., Springfield, was arrested on charges of operating under the influ-

ence of liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, marked lanes violation, and possession of open container of alcohol in motor vehicle.

Friday, Feb. 20

John D. Alves, 49, of 53 Candlewood Drive, Agawam, was arrested on a warrant for larceny by check over \$250.

Saturday, Feb. 21

Philip Johnson, 26, of 50 Holy Family Road, Apt. 514, Holyoke, was arrested on a charge of operating under the influence of liquor.

Agawam officers receive mental health training

Officers from the Agawam Police Department are attending a new mental health training course as now required by Massachusetts' Executive Office of Public Safety and Security. The curriculum for this training was developed by the Massachusetts National Alliance on Mental Illness, the Department of Mental Health and the Municipal Police Training Committee. All municipal police officers in the state will receive updated mental health training by the end of 2015.

"This is a major step forward in providing all law enforcement officers better tools for the safe and responsive management of incidents involving people experiencing mental health crises," said June S. Binney, director of the NAMI Mass. Criminal Justice Project.

The intensive, interactive curriculum is taught by specially trained police offi-

cers from across the state and includes an overview of the symptoms of mental illness; learning verbal and non-verbal communication skills to safely de-escalate potentially dangerous situations; recognizing trauma and PTSD.

According to NAMI, nearly 60 million Americans experience a mental health disorder every year. One in 17 lives with a serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia, major depression or bipolar disorder. One in 10 children and adolescents suffers from serious emotional and mental disorders that cause significant functional impairment in their day-to-day lives.

Binney said improved police training increases safety for all involved and ideally may allow for a person with mental illness to find appropriate treatment without having to experience the stress of arrest and incarceration.

FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 89 EMS calls and the following emergency response calls for the week from Feb. 17 to Feb. 23.

On Feb. 17 at 12:55 a.m., the department responded to Main Street for alarm system activation, no fire — unintentional.

On Feb. 17 at 1:43 a.m., the department responded to Shoemaker Lane for public service.

On Feb. 17 at 7:22 a.m., the department responded to Princeton Avenue for carbon monoxide incident.

On Feb. 17 at 11:51 a.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for public service assistance, other.

On Feb. 17 at 1:16 p.m., the department responded to Cambridge Street for service call, other.

On Feb. 17 at 4:01 p.m., the department responded to High Street for carbon monoxide incident.

On Feb. 18 at 1:08 a.m., the department responded to North West Street for person in distress, other.

On Feb. 18 at 5:30 p.m., the department responded to Silver Street for service call, other.

On Feb. 18 at 7:19 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for alarm system activation, no fire — unintentional.

On Feb. 18 at 7:52 p.m., the department responded to Route 57 Rotary for motor vehicle accident with no injuries.

On Feb. 19 at 12:28 a.m., the department responded to Perry Lane for alarm system sounded due to malfunction.

On Feb. 19 15 3:40 p.m., the department responded to Woodcliff Avenue for electrical wiring / equipment problem, other.

On Feb. 20 at 9:47 a.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for lockout.

On Feb. 20 at 11:08 a.m., the department responded

to Suffield Street for smoke detector activation, no fire — unintentional.

On Feb. 20 at 11:27 a.m., the department responded to Cooper Street for smoke detector activation, no fire — unintentional.

On Feb. 20 at 12:13 p.m., the department responded to Sunnyslope Avenue for arcing, shorted electrical equipment.

On Feb. 20 at 11:58 p.m., the department responded to Lealand Avenue for smoke detector activation due to malfunction.

On Feb. 21 at 10:58 a.m., the department responded to Main Street to assist invalid.

On Feb. 21 at 12:49 p.m., the department responded to Red Fox Drive for chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue.

On Feb. 21 at 8:54 p.m., the department responded to Walnut Street for detector activation, no fire — unintentional.

On Feb. 22 at 10:40 p.m., the department responded to Paul Revere Drive for public service assistance, other.

On Feb. 23 at 11:11 a.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for lockout.

On Feb. 23 at 2:10 a.m., the department responded to Cooley Street for water problem, other.

On Feb. 23 at 6:42 a.m., the department responded to North West Street for person in distress, other.

On Feb. 23 at 1:41 p.m., the department responded to Pleasant Valley Road water or steam leak.

On Feb. 23 at 5:55 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for lockout.

On Feb. 23 at 10:35 p.m., the department responded to North Westfield Street for CO detector activation due to malfunction.

Rabies clinic to be held Saturday

The town of Agawam will sponsor a rabies clinic Saturday, Feb. 28, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Dave's Pet Food City, 151 Springfield St., Agawam.

Second Chance Animal Shelter will be providing rabies vaccines for dogs and cats for \$12. Micro chipping will also be available

for \$20, including registration. Dogs must be on leash and cats must be in carriers.

Owners of pets eligible for a three-year vaccine are asked to bring prior vaccine paperwork with them. Vaccines will be provided by the licensed veterinarians of Second Chance Animal Shelter Inc.

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In the Classroom



AHS senior Seamus Curran, left, organized a fundraising event at a recent high school hockey game with proceeds to benefit autism awareness. Curran is a mentor to Gino Robbins, right. SUBMITTED PHOTO

On Thursday, Jan. 22, there was a sea of light blue at the Olympia hockey rink in West Springfield to celebrate autism awareness. The evening was organized by Agawam High School senior Seamus Curran, mentor to Gino Robbins, who is on the autism spectrum.

Robbins dropped the opening puck. Both the Chicopee High School and AHS hockey teams wore blue puzzle piece stickers on their helmets and blue tape on their sticks to symbolize autism awareness.

Robbins and Curran have created

the “Gino and Seamus Home Runs that Help Team,” where all donations will be given to Autism Speaks of Western Massachusetts.

Curran extends his thanks to Dave Stratton, Jim Blain, Coach Rich Feeley, the Agawam and Chicopee hockey teams, Jeanne Moriarty’s Budding Friendship Club, Bertelli’s Skate Shop and the Robbins family.

Anyone wishing to make a donation may send it to Gino and Seamus Home Runs that Help Team, 28 Blacksmith Road, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

AHS honor roll

Agawam High School recently announced its honor roll for term 2 of the 2014-15 school year.

Grade 9: Aviella Abramchuk, Camille Aloisi, KarlaMichelle Alvarado, Lenox Alves, Meagan Arslanian, Brianne Aubrey, Alexander Bishop, Nicholas Black, Jeremy Bogacz, Jessica Bonfiglio, Dominic Brignoli, Michael Brissette, Isabella Brothers, Lauren Callahan, Joshua Carrier, Adriana Chaika, Markus Chobotaru, Sophi Chrisanthopoulos, Dylan Christy, Erin Consedine, Dominique Counos, Caitlin Courtney, Alyson Crochetiere, Samantha Cross, Caleigh Croteau, Carlos Cruz, Santino Curto, Isabel DeMarco, Natalie Dean, Daniel Denisenko, Zachary Dion, Nicole Dobrowolski, Nicole Dougherty, Matthew Dube, Kiley Dugan, Paige Edwards, Nicholas Faillace, Jonathan Farrell, Amanda Faucher, Kristen Fellion, Katerina Fenney, Samantha Fett, Amber Fillion, Rachel Florence, Emma Fogarty, Emily Fountain, Grace Frogameni, Brianna Fryer, Kyle Garner, Adam Gauthier, Brianna Gaynor, Tylor Goodell, Leah Gordon, Brianna Goyette, Steven Grasso, Jenna Gravel, Thomas Grenier, Ethan Gulla, Gabriel Guyette-holben, Lindsay Hartmann, Bella Hastings, Jonathan Heelon, Joseph Hendrickson, Abbie Hoban, Paige Hollander, MaryRose Hutchins, Domenic Ingham, Matthew Iserman, Jarrod Lemke, Madison Lockwood, Sara Lubarsky, Jaden Luke, Nicole Luna, Kyle Ma, Colin Mahoney, Alyssa Martin, Shaun Mateus, Elizabeth Milliken, Nathan Mitchell, Veronica Modirca, Amanda Moquin, Jared Murray, Alyssa Nadeau, Jacob Neal, Carina Nesen, Jimmy Nguyen, Caitlin Normoyle, Mathew O’Keefe, Joseph Oliver, Meagan Olson, Zachary Ouimette, Deanna Pahl, Dario Papallo, Melissa Paquette, Sadie Parrotta, Anthony Passerini, Khush Patel, Nil Patel, Collin Pelchat, Domenic Pellegrino, Connor Pender, Mia Perella, Justin Poirier, Katelynn Poirier, Julia Potter, Michael Reardon, Grace Rinaldi, Quinn Robinson, Matthew Rowe, Sonia Rubeck, Sarah Ruel, Alyssa Santaniello, Jacob Sawyer, Audrey Shuart, Nina Signorelli, Laura Snow, Quinne Stoddard, Jordan Streete, Brianna Taft, Angela Taliceo, Kaylee Tang, Corey Taylor, Eliza Timms, Sashaeliza Torres, Merve Turkmen, Benjamin Vyce, Ryan White, Brandon Whitehead, Jake Wieners, Brea Wier, Shannon Williams, Zachary Williams, Mara Winer, Theodore Woods, Isabella Yacovone, Fatima Zahoor, Yuki Zheng.

Grade 10: Serena Abraham, Lillian Afflitto, Laura Arbelaez, Nicholas Askins, Mariam Aydah, Michael Basile, Dennis Beaver, Erin Berthiaume, Nathan Blain, Molly Breton, Olivia Brooks, Alina Bubuz, Makayla Campelo, Sydney Carra, Jack Chamberland, Ethan Chan, Alexandra Cichetti, Francis Cipriani, Anna Colfer, Julian Colon, Jordyn Comtois, Bianca Culhane, Abigail Cunningham, Colin Czerpak, Matthew Dagenais, Mary D’Angelo, Xhy-Y Dao, Elisabeth Davydov, Sophia DeCesare, Francesco DeMaio, Mollie Dion, Samantha Downs, Joseph Drake, Madison Dube, Allyson Dubiel, Julia Eggleston, Zachary Fiedler, Jessica Fontaine, Lizclariane Franqui, Karina Fronchkevich, Jenna Gamelli, Juste Gavelyte, Meghan Gendron, Alann Giberson-Acevedo, Matteo Godek, Christian Gonet, Katelynn Grasso, Alyssa Gravel, Amber Gray, Collette Groux, Jacob Hampton, Miranda Harpin, Mia Hawkes, Aimee Heinze, Thomas Hendrickson, Stephanie Herring, Ian Higgins, Caroline Hitchcock, Garrett Hollander, Katie Hryniewicz, Malvina Hrytskevich, Nathaniel Humphries, Lyubislav Ivanov, Lianna Johnson, Sierra Jones, Brian Keefe, Kaila Keene, Jonathan Kelley, Ji-Sun Kim, Collin Knowlton, Lyuba Kodreanu, Lydia Koury, Spencer Kozlak, Preston Kozub, Courtney Kraas, Sierra Kruser, Ashley Krzykowski, Carly Laskowski, Ashley Laviera, Bailey Lavolette, Erin Lavoie, Kevin Lecuyer, Matthew Lockwood, Lauren Lopez, Kevyn Martins, Jenna Matuza, Sydney Mazza, Alexis McElligott, Joshua McGill, Ashleigh Merriam, Jasmine Micks, Brooke Miller, Myia Misisco, Maria Moccio, Brian Modzelesky, Tytus Moen, Bradley Montanez, Veronica Moore, Christopher Morassi, Samuel Morassi, Troy Near, Darlene Nguyen, Jared Nigro, Shaun Noonan, Michaela Normand, Tanya Nosikova, Paul Oberheim, Melanie Ortiz, Alessio Papallo, Foram Patel, Rachel Pellegrini, Karleigh Pfau, Nicolas Pietroniro, Kyle Pinkham, Anastasiya Pirogova, Anna

Pirogova, Cody Plankey, Matthew Plasse, Alexander Poggi, Maximilian Posnik, Madeleine Provost, Giovanna Recchia, Maria Riberdy, Ethan Rivera, Emma-lee Rivet, Dereck Rogers, Matthew Rolland, Samantha Rubacha, Kayla Rufo, Snizhana Salagornik, William Schwarz, Victor Shapovalov, Tatyana Shostak, Emma Silchuk, Mohamed Soffan, Samantha Stratton, Shane Suchenicz, Gino Tedeschi, Kevin Thompson, Bianca Toto, Hai Tran, Jessica Vaughn, Jeremy Venne, Abagale Viens, Taia Vivenzio, Katalina Wallace, Michael Werbiskis, Kyle Widmer, Roman Yusenkov, Melissa Zhao.

Grade 11: Victoria Abramchuk, Martie Faye Agravante, Paige Alves, Alexander Amato, Alec Ardolino, Emma Armfield, Cassandra Ayre, Allyson Balboni, John Baranov, Cameron Barrington, Jenna Beach, Maggie Belanger, Rachel Bonafilla, Jenna Bonasoni, Kristin Brouillette, Daniel Brunelle, Taylor Budreau, Laura Cafaro, Kayla Casamento, Victoria Castro, Samantha Charette, Marino Cipriani, Geoffrey Circosta, Matthew Conway, Kellie Cormier, Nicole Covill, Kayla Crean, Meghan D’Amours, Kayla DeBarros, Maggie DeForge, Karina Demchuk, Mikayla Diedrick, Richard Dolan, Christophori Dowd, Morgan Durocher, Ava Ferrendino, Ryan Feyre, Cameron Fowler, Jordan Frazee, Madison Gabel, Danielle Gagnon, Troy Gallerani, Abigail Garner, Brendan Garvey, Daniel Garvey, Daphne Gauthier, Angela Gnall, Katelynn Gordon, Grace Greene, Amanda Guerette, Alexander Gut, Veronica Hardy, Thomas Howard, Lilia Iovenco, Madalyn Izoita, Alexa Janicki, Robert Johnston, Austin Jones, Madeline Joyal, Taylor Kozel, Hannah Kresock, Alexis Kupiec, Amberly LaBranche, Tyler LaCamera, Elizabeth LaCroix, Rebecca LaCroix, Conner Lajoie, Brian LaMotte, Kainoa Lanski, Rachel Lappunese, Gabrielle Lescarbeau, Jessica Lingenberg, Yi-chi Liu, Steven Ludtke, Todd Maniscalchi, Katie Martin, Jaime Martinez, Frank Mastromatteo, Diane McGregor, Margaret Mendoza, Carly Milne, Christie Mirski, Joseph Moccio, Roman Mogan, Max Molta, Bryanna Montalvo, Julianne Moriarty, Nathan Morrie, John Morris, Julia Nadolny, Tara Negrucci, Vita Nesen, Sydney O’Keefe, Amanda Ottomaniello, John Passerini, Gianna Perella, Duncan Phillips, Helen Phu, Alexis Price, Tymothy Regnier, Alexandria Rempp, Alison Renaud, Paul Rivera, Kelly Roberts, David Rodriguez, Jennifer Rossi, Keith Ruby, Jacqueline Rybinski, Austin Sabadosa, Nicholas Sampson, Ozan Sarpkaya, Carina Savoie, Zachary Sawyer, Jillian Scherpa, Melissa Schuler, Anthony Sciarrelli, Charles Sciafani, Nicholas Scuderi, Julia Serra, Nickolas Sircar, Kyra Slocum, Kelly Soto, Amy Stefanik, Keandria Sussman, Victoria Sutherland, Samantha Swistak, Victoria Thomas, Anastacia Torres, Anthony Ugolini, Allison Wheeler, Emily Whitman, Tyler Wojcik, Sarah Wyckoff, Laura Wynne, Vladimir Zabedyuk, Nick Zaporozhchenko.

Grade 12: Nicolas Abodeeb, Jamie Allivato, Nicholas Antico, Alyssa Askins, Elijah Bard, Christopher Basile, Brittany Busco, Dominic Calcasola, Shayne Castonguay, Lexi Cears, Richard Cears, Nicole Christian, Zachary Circosta, Andrew Colson, Joseph Cortese, Brandon Cruz, Cameron Czerpak, Mia Davidson, Jonathan Day, Patrick Deane, Amanda Delore, Daniel Dobek, Jacqueline Donahue, Skylar Downs, Dalton Drummond, Megan Dustin, Liya Dzyubenko, Alyssa Eggleston, Sumeyye Elevli, Carly Evelyn, Rachel Fancy, Emily Feid, Robert Fontaine, David Gage, Hannah Gingras, Sarah Graves, Teresa Graziano, Samantha Gregory, Alyssa Guerette, Nicholas Hanchett, Lauren Hartmann, Tyler Heer, Samantha Henry, Paul Hotaling, Heather Howe, Emily Jefferson, Taylor Kareta, Frederick Karl-Morin, James Karl-Morin, Carly LaBelle, Casandra Land, Christopher LaZazzera, Kristina Lemire, Braden Lucia, Viktoriya Maklakova, Khoulood Mandour, Stephen Mateus, Kyla McGurn, Angelina Melloni, Joseph Mercadante, Ashley Micks, Marissa Miller, Irina Mita, Ann Mozzer, Emily Murphy, Jesse Near, Jaclyn Neilsen, Gianna Nettis, Erblina Nuhui, Vincent Panuccio, Aliaksandra Papova, Rebecca Paquette, Roshni Patel, Anna Pellegrino, Emily Percy, Cory Pfau, Haley Piotrowski, Jordan Reed, James Ridenour, Cameron Rivest, Daniel Robie, Veronica Rovatti, Veronica Rubeck, Meaghan Sanschagrinn, Benjamin Schiff, Allison Schwarz, Amanda Smith, Nicole Spafford, Jennifer Stempel, Andrew Strong, Jae Suk, Kayla Tausendfreund, Ellen Vyce, Peyton Watford, Ashley Webster, Macklen Wier, Eric Wolowicz, Philip Woods, Zachary Wyssocki.

Agawam High School Counseling bulletin

College Acceptances: Daniel Dobek: Salve Regina University, Westfield State College; Megan Dustin: Bowdoin College, Marymount University; Carly Evelyn: Sacred Heart University; Alyssa Eggleston: Johnson & Wales University, Paul Smith’s College; Paul Hotaling: Clarkson University; Heather Howe: Hofstra University; Brodie Keene: Western New England University, Worcester State University, Westfield State University; Christopher LaZazzera: Sacred Heart University; Tori McCullough: Southern New Hampshire University; Joe Mercadante: Long Island University; Megan Dustin: Worcester Polytechnic Institute; James Ridenour: University of New England, Western New England University; Megan Phu: Bridgewater State University, Westfield State University, Emmanuel College, Framingham State University; Teresa Graziano: University of Rhode Island, University of Vermont, Worcester State Uni-

versity, University of New England, UMass Boston; Christina Verbetsky: Western New England University; Monique Groux: University of Maine Orono, Westfield State University, Plymouth State University; Frederick Karl-Morin: Western New England University; James Karl-Morin: Western New England University; Daniel Lavoie: Loyola University

Seniors: Please let Mrs. Tirone in the counseling office know what college/university you have been accepted into.

Free Financial Aid Application Assistance for Mass. Residents: American Student Assistance College Planning Centers offer free assistance with completing financial aid application at centers and over the phone by calling 877-332-4348. Visit www.asa.org/plan for more information.

Scholarships: See your counselor for more information or an application.

School Lunch

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

The Agawam High School lunch menu is posted on the school’s website.

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, March 2: Asian popcorn chicken with sweet and sour sauce, white rice, Asian vegetable, fortune cookie, assorted fruit.
Tuesday, March 3: Hotdog, baked fries, low-fat potato chips, fresh and chilled fruit.
Wednesday, March 4: Half Day. No lunch.
Thursday, March 5: Mexican beef tacos, lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, salsa, rice and black beans, fresh and chilled fruit.
Friday, March 6: French bread pizza, salad with light dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL

Monday, March 2: Asian popcorn chicken with sweet and sour sauce, white rice, Asian vegetable, fortune cookie, assorted fruit.
Tuesday, March 3: Hotdog, baked fries, low-fat potato chips, fresh and chilled fruit.
Wednesday, March 4: Half Day. No lunch.
Thursday, March 5: Mexican beef tacos, lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, salsa, rice and black beans, fresh and chilled fruit.
Friday, March 6: French bread pizza, salad with light dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Monday, March 2: Asian popcorn chicken with sweet and sour sauce, white rice, Asian vegetable, fortune cookie, assorted fruit.
Tuesday, March 3: Hotdog, baked fries, low-fat potato chips, fresh and chilled fruit.
Wednesday, March 4: Half Day. No lunch.
Thursday, March 5: Mexican beef tacos, lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, salsa, rice and black beans, fresh and chilled fruit.
Friday, March 6: French bread pizza, salad with light dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

ELEMENTARY BREAKFAST MENU

Monday, March 2: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, cinnamon graham crackers, mozzarella cheese string, chilled juice.
Tuesday, March 3: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted Nutri-Grain bars, mozzarella cheese string, chilled juice.
Wednesday, March 4: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted muffins, mozzarella cheese string, chilled juice.
Thursday, March 5: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted Trix yogurt, mozzarella cheese string, chilled juice.
Friday, March 6: Mini chocolate chip pancakes with syrup for dipping, mozzarella cheese string, 1 percent low-fat milk, chilled juice.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue’s relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Agawam Advertiser News, please email mballway@turley.com.

Doering School honor roll

The Roberta G. Doering School recently announced its honor roll for term 2 of the 2014-15 school year.

Grade 5: Amara Agosto, Asa Agudelo, James Anziano, Nina Baranov, Olivia Barbarini, Kannon Behrens, Madison Belmer, Susan Belozero, Emalee Bisson, Ethan Black, Colin Bronner, Zarina Bubuz, Virginia Caney, Lauren Carrier, Ryan Casagrande, Sarah Champigny, Anatoliy Chebanov, Cameron Chrisanthopoulos, Liliana Cicchetti, Cameron Cofer, Jaylina Cone, Hannah Cote, Marisa Cote, Taylor Cotton, Jaden Couture, Evan Cruz, Mikayla Curley, Evan Danek, Allison Davenport, Emily DeGeorge, Gabriella Dickinson, Mia DiLullo, Nicholas Donovan, Alyssa Drumm, Ella Eastman, Amelia Ellison, Maxwell Florian, Jessica Fox, Sera Gagnon, Samuel Garfield, Livia Gavelis, Diana Ghareeb, Quinton Gill, Sofia Giordano, Jenel Gonzalez, Dayne Gottier, Jacob Griswold, Emily Gulla, Greta Halford, Marissa Hermans, Joseph Higgins, Abbey Hildreth, Isabella Hill, Haley Hinshaw, Aiden Holloway, Abigail Holmes, Christopher Johnson, Autumn Jones, Minseo Kang, Allison Kasperek, Shane Kendall, Lillian Kennedy, Leah Kenny, Ella Kinchak, Emily Kukharchuk, Jacob Kulas, Nathan LaBonte, Clara Laudato, Nicholas Laviolette, Igor Lavrenchuk, Aiden Lawor, Rachel Le, Elijah Leduc, Brynn Legros, Leila London, Nathan Lindell, Rebecca Littlehale, Jack Litz, Mark Lukin, Benjamin Luong, Patrick MacDonald, Alexander Marino, Vincent Martin, Kaycie McColley, Isabella McGregor, Aiden McKay, Mila Miller, Emily Miolla, Emma Miolla Jayden Montagna, Giana Mullins, Matthew Nigro, Rebecca Obegenski, Paige O'Neil, Melina Ortiz, Emily Ottomariello, Maxim Paliy, Jack Patterson, Grace Payne, Hayley Potter, Dayna Rahilly, Selma Rahman, Jessica Reed, Brooke Rising, Bella Rollend, Kaylee Sanchez, Anthony Sanzo, Jesse Schuler, Kristina Sholop, Rachel Sigafosse, Gianna Smith, Kevin Soto, Melena St. Jacques, Ainsley Stevens, Sarah Tayeh, Jessica Taylor, Ashlyn Thomas, Domenic Vecchiarelli, Vincent Wallace, Calista Watson, Dylan Wesley, Ernest Whitehead, Trinity Wright, Syeda Zahoor, Madison Zomek.

Grade 6: Emma Ackley, Abigail Agron, Mia Albano, Julia Allen, Emily Ball, William Balzano, Kimberly Beaver, Sofia Blanchette, Joshua Bouchard, Reese Bourgeois, Madison, Braska, Delaney Brown, James Chenevert, Keeley Cote, Serena Croteau, Kylie Crowley, David Dagenais, Justin Davis, Hannah Davydov, Ryan Del Barba, Nicole Depergola, Anthony Dillard, Emily Ehresman, Anna Fedotova, Cristina Ferraro, Christian Fisk, Jocelyn Fonseca, Katherine, Gauthier, Ryan Gilbert, Benjamin Gordon, Joseph Goudreau, Julia Hall, Julia Hampton, Ethan Harnois, Mia Hastings, Olga Iovenco, Margaret Johnston, Jacob Kibbe, Rebecca Kiforishina, Emanuel Kodreanu, Hannah Krafcik, Emily Landry, Austin Larrabee, Joseph Lochiatto, Colin Malecki, Stephanie Maloni, Anastasiya Mamentava, Frank Marasi, Katherine Matuza, Delaney Miles, Sophia Moccio, Tia Nuzzolilli, Laine Page, Timothy Polevoy, Joshua Privedenyuk, Adam Radkovets, Meredith Ravizza, Mackenzie Ritchie, Jennifer Ritter, Sarah Ross, Christian Rua, Sofia Ruiz, Dahlia Ryan, Olivia Salva, Jackson Schlosser, Sofia Sergeychik, Anna Shlemanov, Summer Smith, Talal Soffan, Emily St. Pierre, Rowenn Stevens, Kaben Suresh, Julia Sweeney, Skylar Thies, Athena Trench, Connor Twohig, Isabelle Uneegar, Kayleah Unglaub, Alex Varennev, William Walsh, Joseph Weyant, Michael Winer, Kaitlin Winters, Lucas Woods, Abby Work, Brian Wyckoff, Vladislav Zimokha, Emma Zollo, Zachary Zollo.

Residents attain honors at St. Thomas

WEST SPRINGFIELD — The following local residents were among those to be named to the second quarter honor roll at St. Thomas the Apostle School in West Springfield.

First Honors: Jessica Fedor, grade 8; Thomas Young, grade 7; Nora Reilly, grade 5.

Second Honors: Alexandra Gonet, grade 8; Elizabeth Gonet, grade 6.

Third Honors: Elizabeth Kane, grade 6.



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For information call (413) 221-8813 or email Michelle at Michelle@GraceGroupRealty.com



Sign up now for preschool screening

Agawam Public Schools is now scheduling preschool screenings, to be conducted in March. Preschool screening is a process of assessing a child's general development. It is not a "test" in the sense that a child passes or fails; it provides information about children's strengths and helps detects areas of weakness. Professionals observe the child doing various tasks and then are guided in assessing the child's ability by standardized performance scales.

To request a screening for a 3- or 4-year-old, contact the Agawam Early Childhood Center at 413-821-0597 to schedule an appointment for March. The center conducts screenings throughout the year, so parents of children who are not quite three years old should wait to contact the center later during the school year. These screenings are for preschool only — not kindergarten.

Junior Women scholarships available

The GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club is once again accepting applications for scholarships that will be awarded to deserving high school seniors who reside in Agawam or Feeding Hills and are planning to further their education in the current year. Applicants for the AJWC General Scholarship will be considered with an emphasis placed on those individuals who have volunteered in the community. Additionally, the Mounimeh Future Teacher Scholarship for \$1,000 will be awarded to a senior who is pursuing a degree in education.

Both scholarship applications are available online on the AHS website under the "counseling" tab. Agawam and Feeding Hills residents who are high school seniors but do not attend AHS can access the applications online or at their respective high schools. Both scholarship applications must be postmarked by April 1 and returned to GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club, P.O. Box 332, Agawam, MA 01001, Attn: Janine Iacolo. For more information, email Iacolo at info@agawamgfwc.com.

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, one of the largest female volunteer organizations in the world.



Evelyn Jaskulski, a student at Mary Ann Studio of Dance. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Mary Ann dancers give back

Students at the Mary Ann Studio of Dance took part in the Berkshire Ballet's "Nutcracker" production at Springfield's Symphony Hall in December. Among those to perform was Feeding Hills resident Evelyn Jaskulski, who played the role of one of the clowns.

More recently, on a Saturday between snowstorms, Jaskulski joined ballet instructor April Mosher on a field trip out in the community. Together they delivered soda tabs to the Shriners Hospital, and then went on to the Holyok Soldiers Home to deliver personal needs items for the residents there.

While the Mary Ann Studio of Dance helps many, young and old, to enjoy dance, they also take pride in encouraging young dancers to give back to the community in many ways.

The dancers will continue to give back to the community in the near future with a performance at the Eastfield Mall to benefit the Heart Association.

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SPORTS

HOCKEY

Agawam finishes off strong season

Curran notches 100th point

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam hockey team finished off the regular season last Thursday night the same way they started it, by scoring a lot of goals.

Agawam celebrated an undefeated league season and clinched the Berry Division with a 13-0 drubbing of their former fierce rivals, South Hadley, at Olympia Ice Center.

South Hadley, which used to have the advantage in the rivalry between the two teams, has lost six straight games against Agawam dating back to the two teams meeting in the Division 3A final and Agawam going on to win the state championship.

Agawam went an impressive 12-0-2 in their league. Agawam only lost three games in the regular season this year, all of them against teams outside the region.

The Brownies' biggest strength during the past two years as they surged onto the Division 3 and Berry Division scene has been depth.

That same depth was on display with 11 different players scoring goals for the Brownies.

South Hadley was never in the game as Agawam started scoring early, and never looked back.

The biggest highlight in the final game for Agawam was 100th career point for senior Seamus Curran.

Curran had four points in the game, scoring two goals and assisting on two others. Curran played hockey for the past four years for the Brownies. He has been used mostly as a defenseman, but has also be shifted forward when Agawam has needed goals.

Curran has been one of Agawam's best players during the past couple of seniors, and hockey is only his second sport.

Also contributing two goals in the victory was Anthony Passerini. Cam Rivest, Keith Ruby, Kyle Toti, Niko Passerini, John Passerini, Joe Mercadante, John Colwell, and Zach Circosta also scored goals in the victory.

Agawam's regular season is finished with the Brownies going 15-3-2. Agawam started out the season undefeated for nine games. Mixed in were ties against rivals Longmeadow and Westfield.

HOCKEY | page 14



Cory Pfau battles with a South Hadley defender for the puck. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

GIRLS BASKETBALL



Ally Charette sets to pass the ball away. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Meghan D'Amours tries to keep the ball away from East Longmeadow's defense. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Lady Brownies fall to Easthampton

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam girls basketball team will only graduate two seniors, and could see quite an improvement next year with both of their top scorers returning to the team.

This season, unfortunately, did not end on a high note for the Brownies as they were defeated by East Longmeadow, 43-36, in

a game that was decided by a strong second half by the Spartans, who were celebrating Senior Night at home.

The Brownies actually trailed early in the game before a great second quarter gave them a healthy halftime lead.

Jess Lingenberg would get the Brownies off to a good start by breaking a scoreless tie 2:30 into the game with a medium depth shot. She was followed about 20

seconds later with a 3-pointer by Christie Mirski.

East Longmeadow came back with a couple of scores to tie the score 5-5.

Alli Wheeler would hit a free throw, but East Longmeadow would score a basket to take a 7-6 lead. Another trey made it 10-6 East Longmeadow, though Mirski closed the gap at the end of the

LADY BROWNIES | page 13

WRESTLING

Basile ready to compete at All-States tourney

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – Last year, Anthony Basile worked through a shoulder injury to qualify for a spot at the New England Tournament.

He couldn't compete at New England because the injury got worse.

This year, Basile is healthy and he is looking to make his way back to that big meet.

Basile started the journey with another Western Massachusetts Division I Championship at 145

pounds. And last Saturday night, Basile captured his first State Division I Championship when he defeated Marlen Lamas by an 11-6 decision.

Basile and Lamas battled to a 4-4 deadlock in the first few minutes of the match. Basile was in the down position to start the third period of the match. He worked quickly to score an escape to open the third, then immediately attacked and got a takedown to take a 7-4 lead.

The early points allowed Basile to take command of the match

BASILE | page 14

SOCCER

LAF hosts annual awards banquet

By Tim Peterson

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – The 26th annual Lusitano Alumni & Fans Western Mass. High School Soccer Awards Banquet was held at the Gremio-Lusitano Club in Ludlow on Sunday night.

Ludlow High School boys soccer coach Greg Kolodziey received the Larry Briggs Award, which is given annually by the Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association.

Greg's father, William, received the award in 1990.

A few other people associated with Ludlow soccer, who have re-

ceived the Briggs award since it first began in 1947, are John Millane (1951), John Kurty (1962), Angelo Teixeira (1981), Tony Goncalves (1991), Fred Pereira (2002), and Ron Dias (2010).

The Stephanie Santos Memorial Scholarship Award was presented to Easthampton High School senior goalkeeper Alyssa Fugiel, who also received the Division 3 Most Valuable Player award. Fugiel allowed only three goals and posted 13 shutouts last fall.

The LAF Scholarship Award was presented to Wahconah senior forward Kevin Boino, who

AWARDS | page 14

Sports

COLLEGE NOTES

Rackliffe grabs double-double

WORCESTER - Framingham State women's basketball sophomore and Feeding Hills resident Alycia Rackliffe finished with 13 points and 10 rebounds in a 74-50 loss to Saturday, Feb. 21.

Ritter helps out Wentworth

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - Wentworth men's volleyball sophomore and Feeding Hills resident Colin Ritter notched 47 assists with four kills and three blocks in a 3-2 victory over Johnson & Wales on Monday, Feb. 23.

Fishing swap meet set for March 8

AGAWAM - A fishing swap meet will be held at the Polish American Club, 139 Southwick St., from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 8.

Buy, sell, trade new and used fishing and hunting gear, but no guns allowed.

The event is open to the public.

Polish Club concessions will be open with breakfast/lunch food and drink.

Free parking. There will be a \$2 donation accepted at the door. Children 12 and under free.

Raffle prizes to be awarded.

Table space and both space available.

Don't miss your opportunity to make some money selling your used fishing gear!

If you would like to sell your items or boat please contact Dave Dussault at 413-427-0846.

Central team to beat in D1 girls tourney

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

REGION - Chicopee Comp, Holyoke, and Minnechaug have all drawn lower seeds as the Western Massachusetts Division I girls basketball tournament kicks off this week.

Seeds were announced last Saturday afternoon, and only one team from Central Massachusetts, Shepherd Hill, qualified to be included in the Western tournament. This is the second year of a two-year proposal of combining teams from Western and Central Mass. in the sectional tournament.

Comp was 13-7 during the regular season.

The Colts have played several of their games this season against teams that are in their tournament. They have beaten Minnechaug twice this season and have also matched up against Northampton and West Springfield. Comp lost both of those games. Late in the season, they lost against No. 5 Westfield.

Comp finished the regular season winning three of their last four games. The Colts strongest part of their season was playing in the Suburban League, where they went 7-1 and won the league. None of their league opponents are in the Division I tournament.

Holyoke (11-9) has had a tough second half of their season.

The Knights actually started off the season really strong appeared headed for a long run in the tournament.

But the Knights struggled after their sixth game of the season. Holyoke started the year at 5-1, but went 6-8 the remainder of the year.

Their biggest struggle was in the Central League, where they went 2-6. Holyoke suffered through a streak of losing seven of eight, but finally finished the regular season winning five of six, including final two of the regular season.

Holyoke split their two games against West Springfield, getting the win in the final game of the regular season at home against the Terriers 58-51.

No. 7 Holyoke is scheduled to face the Terriers on the tonight in the quarterfinals. West Springfield is the second seed and had a 16-4 record in the regular season.

Minnechaug opened the playoffs with a qualifying round game that was played Tuesday night at home against Sci-Tech.

If they were successful, they will be playing at No. 1 Central (17-5) on Friday, Feb. 27.

The Falcons qualified for the tournament in two ways, tying for second place in the Valley Wheel with a 5-3 league record, and by getting the necessary .500 record at 10-10.

Minnechaug was stronger earlier in the season and struggled during the final quarter of the year, losing three of five. The Falcons qualified for the tournament on Feb. 13 with a 49-44 victory over Belchertown.

In other quarterfinal matchups, No. 5 Westfield faces No. 4 Shepherd Hill.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at dforbes@turley.com.



The Agawam hockey team shows unity by getting mullets before the start of the playoffs. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS SUBMITTED PHOTO

Brownies grab second seed in Division 3

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

REGION - Despite a better record, and an edge head-to-head, the Agawam hockey team received the No. 2 seed in the Western Massachusetts Division 3 Tournament.

Seeds were released on Sunday afternoon.

Agawam is scheduled to be in action Thursday in one semifinal game against rival Longmeadow. Minnechaug, the No. 4 seed, will face No. 1 Westfield.

Agawam hopes to advance into a rematch with Westfield for the Western Mass. championship and avenge a loss from last year.

The Brownies' program has developed well during the past three years, with Agawam winning the state championship in Division 3A two years ago. The Brownies then kept the surge into Division 3 and ran roughshod over the competition in the Berry Division, winning it last year along with the No. 1 seed in the tournament.

Despite two wins over Westfield in the regular season, the Bombers upset Agawam in the finals 6-4.

This year, Agawam won the Berry Division again. This time, the Brownies were undefeated at 12-0-2. They had a win and a tie against both No. 1 Westfield and No. 3 Longmeadow. They have beat No. 4 Minnechaug twice this year.

Agawam must use every ounce of its depth and talent to get by Longmeadow. The Lancers have played Agawam very tough twice this year. Agawam escaped with a 5-4 win on Feb. 12 the last time the two teams got together.

Minnechaug qualified for the tournament with an 11-8

record. They had an even 7-7 record in the Berry Division this year. The Falcons met Westfield twice this season, losing by 11-1 and 7-3 scores. The two teams last played each other on Jan. 15. The Falcons finished the regular season with three wins in four games. The Falcons do not have a win against one of the teams in the four-team bracket.

The Falcons meet Westfield at 8 p.m. All playoff games are being held at Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield.

Division 3A

Chicopee High and Chicopee Comp have won first-round byes into the semifinals in the Division 3A Tournament.

Chicopee finished with a great record at 12-6-2 and Comp was not far behind at 11-5-4. Their strength of schedule netted them the top seeds in the tournament.

Meanwhile, the Amherst-Palmer co-operative program received the number three seed with a 13-3-4 record.

Amherst was undefeated was for many games early in the season. They were scheduled to host a quarterfinal game against visiting Mount Everett Tuesday night. If victorious, they would face No. 2 Chicopee Comprehensive in the semifinals on Saturday afternoon.

On the other side of the bracket, Belchertown is fighting for the opportunity to face No. 1 Chicopee.

The Orioles are the No. 4 seed at 11-8-1 this season. They had a quarterfinal meeting against Wahconah Regional Tuesday and would face Chicopee Saturday if they had won.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.



Christie Mirski passes the ball into the arc. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

LADY BROWNIES ■ from page 12

first quarter with a floating shot to make it 10-8.

Brittany Busco tied the score in the second quarter by hitting a basket to make it 12-12.

Mirski would give the Brownies a lead with a basket that made it 15-14.

Meghan D'Amours would get in on the scoring to make it 18-14, and later, a steal by Agawam would lead to Lingenberg feeding Wheeler to make it 20-15 at halftime.

East Longmeadow was shut out of scoring the final minute of the first half, but Agawam could not keep the trend going.

The Spartans started finding the basket during the third quarter and Agawam's scoring quieted.

With the Spartans outscoring Agawam by 12 points in the second half, the Spartans turned their fortunes around to deny the Brownies a win in their final game of the regu-

lar season.

Mirski would lead the Brownies with 15 points. She made three treys. D'Amours scored six points and Becca Uschmann had five points.

The Brownies finish the regular season with a 4-16 record. While Agawam often played good defense and kept most of their opponents below 50 points this year, they struggled to score. Agawam went 1-7 in their league. They scored two wins over Amherst Regional this year, and had wins against Palmer and East Longmeadow.

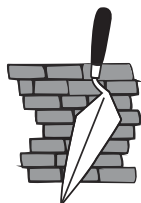
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Sports



Chris Breault sets up for a shot. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

HOCKEY ■ from page 12

After sttuggling in the middle of the season with three losses against non-league opponents in four games, Agawam would score an 11-1 trouncing of independent opponent Chicopee, and go on a winning streak the rest of the season, an eight-game stretch.

The Brownies would overcome both Westfield and Longmeadow during that streak. Both are teams the Brownies will be contending with in this year's tourna-

ment (see related article on page 13).

Curran was the team leader in points with 44 points. Mercadante and Rivest were tied for second on the team with 29 points each. Curran also led the team in goals with 21. Mercadante and Chris Breault tied for second with 12 goals each.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

Registration open for girls softball leagues

The Sacred Heart Athletic Association offers softball leagues that can accommodate girls from grades 1 through 8. The cost for instructional softball for first- and second-graders is \$75 and NEYSA for third- through eighth-graders is \$100.

All registrations will be held at the Sacred Heart Religious Education Cen-

ter, 1103 Springfield St., Feeding Hills on Saturday, Feb. 28, and Saturday, March 7, from 1 to 3 p.m.

To register by mail, visit the Sacred Heart Athletic Association website, www.leaguelineup.com/shsoftball, download the registration form and send it in. The deadline for mail-in registration is March 9.

BASILE ■ from page 12

and go on to win the title.

Basile's victory will give him a higher seed at this weekend's All-State meet at Salem High School. Basile will be facing the top placewinners from schools in Divisions 2 and 3. If he finishes in the top six, he will qualify again for a spot at the New England Tournament.

Basile was not alone among Agawam wrestlers wanting to qualify for the All-State Tournament. He was joined by seven other state tournament qualifiers.

Of those seven, three more qualified for the all-states.

At 170 pounds, Nick Blais, who placed second at Western Mass., picked up a fourth place finish at the state tournament. Fred Karl-Morin at 195 pounds and Jim Karl-Morin at 220 pounds, both won their final matches of the day to place fifth in their weight classes.

Both grapplers are overcoming injuries suffered during the football season.

Daigon Bishop also qualified for the state tournament.

Nick Hope placed eighth in the heavy-weight division, falling short of qualifying for the all-state tournament.

As a team, Agawam was the second best finisher among Western Massachusetts teams in the state tournament. The Brownies finished with a total of 70 points. The top finisher for the third straight year was Central High School, which won the state title again with 168.5 points.

Minnechaug had a 10th-place finish with 62 points.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

AWARDS ■ from page 12

scored a total of 27 goals and had 11 assists last fall. He'll be playing college soccer at UMass-Amherst.

The Division 1 boys Most Valuable Player Award, which was voted on by the coaches, was presented to Ludlow High School senior forward Mike Goncalves, who was a three-year member of the Lions varsity soccer team. Despite missing several games with injuries last fall, Goncalves scored 12 goals and had three assists.

"Mike missed about half of our games last year because of an injury, but when he's on the field, he's a very dangerous player," Kolodziey said. "He's a very hard worker and it's always nice to see one of your players win the MVP award."

Goncalves is the fifth soccer player from Ludlow High School to receive the MVP award since 1989. The other four are Paul Fontoura (1989), Jason Chelo (1999), Steve Jorge (2000), and Michael Jordan (2009).

The Division 1 Boys First Team All-Star selections from the Turley Publications coverage area are Alex Desaulnier(Minnechaug Regional), Tyler Diotalevi (Ludlow High School), Brodie Keene (Agawam High School), Matt LaBranche (Minnechaug Regional), Kris Page (Agawam High School) and Goncalves.

Agawam defeated Minnechaug, 4-0, in a quarterfinal game last November before losing to West Springfield, 3-0, in the semifinals.

High School), and Bzdel.

Belchertown captured the Western Mass. title by defeating Mount Greylock, 1-0, in penalty kicks. They also defeated Central Mass. champion Oakmont 2-1 in pk's in the state semifinals before losing to Eastern Mass. champion Wayland, 1-0, in overtime.

The Division 3 Girls First Team All-Star selections from the Turley Publications coverage area are Lauren Aldrich (Hampshire Regional), Kate Desormier (Granby High School), Alicia Frappier (Granby High School), Sophie Gatzounas (South Hadley High School), Maddy Stahelski (Palmer High School), and Meghan Sullivan (Granby High School).

Granby lost 1-0 to Wahconah in the Western Mass. finals.

The Division 4 Boys Most Valuable Player Award was presented to Smith Academy senior Quinn Rickert.

The Division 4 Boys First Team All-Star selections from the Turley Publications coverage area are all from Monson High School. They are Connor Hicks, Tyler Lefebvre, Pat Murphy, and Robert Payne.

Monson defeated Hopkins Academy, 2-0, in the Western Mass. finals before losing a heartbreaker to Central Mass. Sutton, 1-0 in PKs, in the state semifinals.

The Division 4 girls Most Valuable Player Award was presented to Monson sophomore Bryanna Murphy. Her older sister, Brooke was the Division 2 MVP award in 2012 and the Division 3 MVP award. No other Monson girls soccer player has ever won the award.

"I'm honored to receive the MVP award," Murphy said. "I really didn't expect to get it this year because there were so many very good soccer players in Division 4 this year."

The Division 4 Girls First Team All-Star selections from the Turley Publications coverage area are Danielle Easton (Holyoke Catholic), Alyssa Moreau (Gateway), Jessica Van Heynigen (Gateway), Jessie Walton (Gateway), Megan McGuill (Monson High School), Mikayla Rouette (Monson High School), and Murphy.

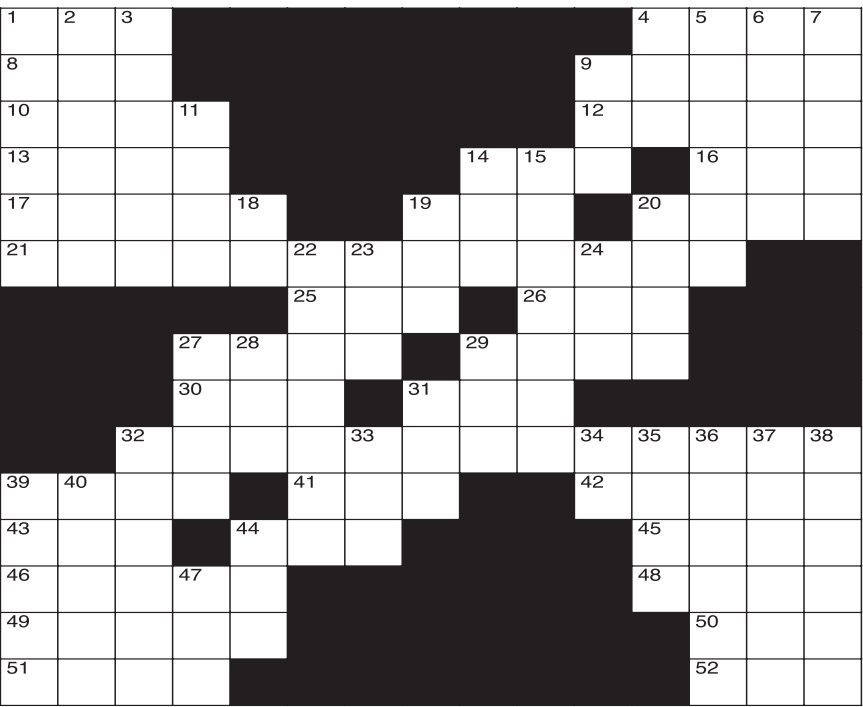
Monson defeated Gateway, 2-0, in the Western Mass. finals and Central Mass. champion Douglas, 2-1 in overtime, before losing to Eastern Mass. champion East Bridgewater, 3-0, in the state finals.

Brian O'Connell, who's the editor and staff writer at New England Soccer Today was this year's guest speaker.

Tim Peterson is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at dforbes@turley.com.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Centralized mailing compartment
- Small argument
- Latin for "hail"
- Semicircular headdress
- Hole plug
- Primp
- A spontaneous motivation
- Don't know when yet
- Portable computer screen material
- Conform
- Yoruba
- Wings
- Tar Hill State
- Hard, durable wood
- Pallid
- Pabir language
- Not crazy

CLUES DOWN

- Word element meaning ear
- Hill (Celtic)
- "Dangerous Liaisons" actor
- Space between 2 points
- Arbitrageur
- 3rd or 4th Islamic month
- Assistance
- Manuscripts (abbr.)
- In a way, soaks
- Synovial knee syndrome
- 2nd cervical vertebra
- State of sudden fright
- Snakelike fish
- Each of 4 Hindu ages
- Point midway between S and SE

CLUES DOWN

- Relating to New Guinea
- Carry to excess
- Alms solicitor
- Title of respect
- Spanish saffron dish
- Betel palm genus
- Petter _____, Nordic combined skier
- Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- Clan division
- Referee declares
- Rampart
- "Big" actor's initials
- Noah's boat
- Diarist _____
- Luminous celestial ring

- Famous motor club
- 007's creator
- A timely blessing
- UTHealth (abbr.)
- Roman Helios
- Check
- Making of a worn-out vicious horse
- Wife
- An alternative
- Spanish unit of length
- Wild goats
- Municipalities
- Bother or harass
- Excessively sentimental
- Middle Eastern dish
- Waterproof raincoat
- Former OSS

Answers on page 6

Obituaries & Church News

Public invited to St. David’s supper

St. David’s Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, will host a community supper Monday, March 2, at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5 to 12, and free for children under 5. The menu will include stuffed roast pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, dessert and beverage.

Public invited to Trinity lunches

SPRINGFIELD — Trinity United Methodist Church will once again host Lenten luncheons and mid-day chapel services during Lent this year. Every Friday through April 3, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., Lenten luncheons will be served in Asbury Hall at Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Ave., next to Forest Park. Chapel services are from 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. in Grace Chapel. The menu will include homemade clam chowder or soup du jour, lobster roll or other sandwiches, and homemade pie. Attendees are encouraged to come early for the best selection. Takeout orders are available by calling ahead on Friday mornings at 413-221-5399. There will be a 50-cent charge per takeout order to help defray the cost of packaging. Proceeds from the luncheons go to support local and global mission projects.

Lenten lunches to begin Friday

WEST SPRINGFIELD — Lenten lunches at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Elm St., will be offered on Fridays through March 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The menu each week will include clam chowder or a different soup, lobster rolls, tuna, and ham or egg salad sandwiches on whole-wheat or white bread, and coffee, tea, soda or bottled water. Pies will be available. Take-out is available by calling 413-734-1976 by 10 a.m.

Church seeks Easter artwork

Hope Community Church, 152 S. Westfield St., Feeding Hills, is looking for artists of all abilities to participate in this year’s Easter art exhibit, “It Is Finished,” to be held at the church during the Easter season. Pieces should in some way reflect the biblical account of the events leading up to and including the Easter narrative. Adults and children are encouraged to participate. Artwork should be submitted to the church no later than March 15. For full submission guidelines, visit the Facebook page, “Hope Community Church Easter Art Exhibit 2015,” the website, www.hopechurchagawam.org, or call Lou Kochanek, director of Worship and the Arts, at 413-885-4932.

Church Directory

AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

745 Main St., Agawam
786-7111
Pastor: Rev. Greg E. Dawson
Agawam1@verizon.net
www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com

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Offsite Worship:
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Heritage North, 1st Tuesdays, 11 a.m.
Heritage Woods, 1st Wednesdays, 11 a.m.
Country Estates, 2nd and 5th Thursdays, 11 a.m.

BETHANY ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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(413) 789-2930
www.bethany-ag.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Richard E. Adams
WORSHIP SERVICES
Sunday 9am & 10:45am
Christian Education offered during both services.
Nightlife Contemporary Service: Sunday 6 p.m.
Wednesday Family Night: 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF REDEMPTION

50 Maple St., Agawam
(413) 304-2313
churchofredemptionministries.org

WORSHIP SERVICES
Summer Schedule

Sunday Service at 10 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday school for children and nursery for younger children

FAITH BIBLE CHURCH

370 Shoemaker Lane
Agawam
(413) 786-1681
jesussaves.7@comcast.net
Church Website: www.faithbible-church.org
Pastor: Rick Donofrio

SERVICES
Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Night Prayer
Meeting and Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

FEEDING HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

“An Open and Affirming Congregation.”
21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills
P.O. Box 264
(413) 786-5061
fhccucc@comcast.net
Pastor: The Rev. Robert C. Donaldson

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
Church School 10:15 a.m.
Worship Service 10 a.m.
Infant and child care provided.
Handicap accessible.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

760 Main St., Agawam
Agawambc@localnet.com
www.firstbaptistagawam.org
SUNDAY SERVICES
Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School (grades K - 5)
following Children’s Message until 10:45
Youth Study time (grades 6+)
following sermon until 10:45
Coffee & Conversation following
worship every Sunday

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

152 South Westfield St.
Feeding Hills
789-2026
SUNDAY SERVICES
Men’s & Women’s Bible Study Groups and

Children’s Sunday School Worship Service at 10 a.m. Children’s Church for age 3 to high school takes place after the service. Nursery available for younger children. A time for fellowship after the service.

MARANATHA BAPTIST CHURCH

522 Springfield St., Feeding Hills
Feeding Hills, MA
478-9484
David L. Short, Pastor

Sunday Family Bible Study Hour, 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service, 11 a.m.
Sunday Night Service, 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer, 7 p.m.

SACRED HEART CHURCH

1103 Springfield St., Feeding Hills
(413) 786-8200
www.SacredHeartFeedingHills.org
Fr. Steven Amo
WEEKLY SERVICES
Lord’s Day Masses: Saturday, 4 p.m.;
Sunday, 7:15 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
Confessions: Saturdays, 3:15 p.m.
Weekday Masses: Monday, Tuesday,
Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.
Special Devotions: Perpetual Novena to the
Sacred Heart following the Friday 9 a.m. Mass

ST. DAVID’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills.
786-6133
saintdavid@comcast.net
www.stdavidsagawam.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

ST. JOHN’S CHURCH

823 Main St., Agawam
786-8105
info@stjohnangelistchurch.org
www.stjohnagawam.org

SCHEDULE OF MASSES
Saturdays: 5 p.m. (Memorial Day to Labor Day)
Sundays: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m., Latin
Mass 12:30 p.m.
Reconciliation: Fridays, 7:15 to 8 a.m., Saturdays, 4 to 4:45 p.m.
Weekdays: Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri., 8 a.m.
Thursday: Communion Service

Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

DEATH NOTICES

Brown, Merilyn D.
Private Services
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home
Agawam

Champigny, Daniel A.
Died Feb. 14, 2015
Funeral Feb. 17, 2015
Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home

Cushing, Dana
Died Feb. 9, 2015
Private Burial
Barry J. Farrell Funeral Home
Holyoke

Daponte, Louis J.
Died Feb. 16, 2015
Funeral Feb. 23, 2015
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home
Agawam

Grasso, Charles A.
Died Feb. 20, 2015
Funeral Feb. 25, 2015
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home
Agawam

Most, Beverly J.
Died Feb. 19, 2015
Private Services
Nicholson & Carmon Funeral Home
Suffield

Saj, Lillian B.
Died Feb. 20, 2015
Funeral Feb. 25, 2015
Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home

Sorel, Donald A.
Died Feb. 16, 2015
Funeral Feb. 20, 2015
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home
Agawam



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QUABOAG COUNTRY CLUB PALMER RD., RT. 32, MONSON, MA Time 10:00AM
AuctionZip Auctioneer ID# 8223
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Keep checking back for additional info & photos since we are way behind due to the continuing snow.
www.wintergardenauktion.com

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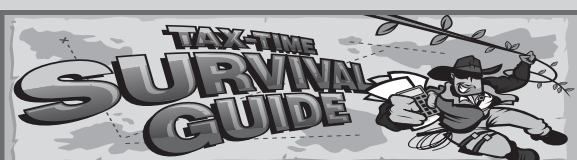
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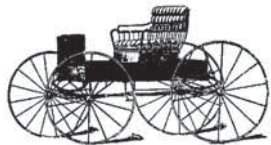
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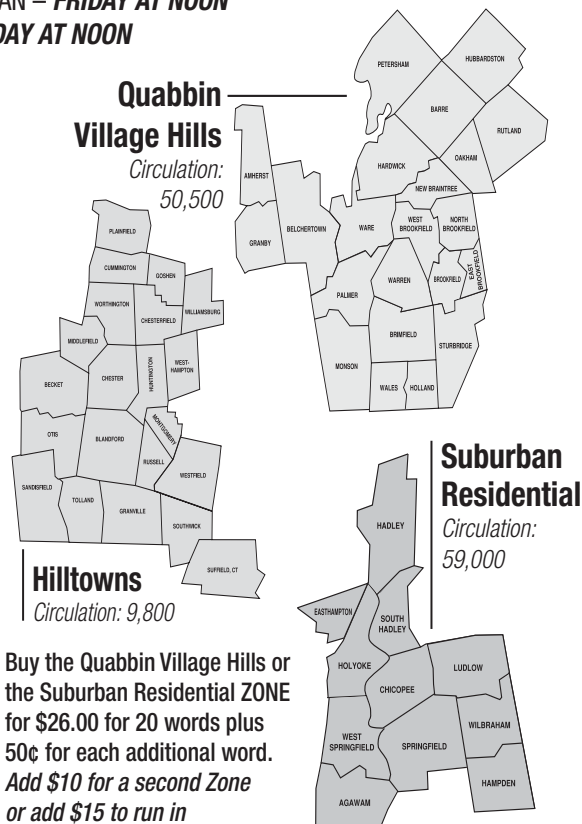
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Help Wanted

CUSTOM MANUFACTURING COMPANY, located in Palmer, MA is accepting resumes for Quality Manager Position. Please send resumes to PO Box 850 Palmer, MA 01069. Duties: Management of ISO 9001:2008 Quality System. Management of Inspection Department to ensure efficiency and conformance to Customer's specifications. Work with Design Engineers to create Inspection Plans to ensure conformance. Management of Environmental & Safety program. Qualifications: Minimum of 2 year degree or 5 years experience in Quality Management. Familiar with ISO 9001:2008 Quality Systems to ensure Quality and documentation control. Proficient in reading of Engineering Prints (GD&T). Strong computer skills. Global Shop familiarity a plus. Manufacturing or Machining background a plus.

DIESEL MECHANIC

FULL-TIME 2nd shift *Diesel Mechanic*. At least one year of experience repairing diesel and gas-powered vehicles, or a related certification and/or academic training; must have own tools to perform mechanical work on buses and vans; CDL Class B with "P" endorsement strongly preferred; however will consider providing CDL training for skilled mechanic. Competitive salary and benefits package. Review job and qualification requirements and upload resume at www.pvta.com or mail to: SATCo., Attn: HR, 2840 Main Street, Springfield, MA 01107. AA/EEO/DF

DRIVER, SCHOOL VAN for growing school transportation Company. 4-6 hours/day. Must be good w/children & have 7+ years safe driving experience. Earn \$12.60+/hour. Call (978)355-2121 after 9:30 AM for application. Will train. EEO

FIREFIGHTER/EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS (2) Town of Wilbraham. Position requires a valid Mass. driver's license, must be Min. Mass. EMT-D certified, preference given to applicants who have completed the Mass. Firefighting Recruit Program and offer work experience with an organized Fire Department. Must not smoke and must meet Massachusetts medical and physical agility test standards. The Town offers a base hiring rate of \$921.31/wk, (EMT-D 10%, EMT-I 14%, EMT-P 16%); union positions w/ full benefits, 24 hr shifts (1-on; 1-off; 1-on; 5-off); Interested parties must complete an Employment Application available at Board of Selectmen's Office, Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 (or print from town website at: www.wilbraham-ma.gov). Applications must be received by 4:30 pm March 13, 2015. EOE

Financial Coordinator

Financial Coordinator: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission seeks a full-time Financial Coordinator to maintain financial records of various PVPC Community Development Section administered programs (80% time) and assistance to the Commission's Accounting Department (20% time). At least 3 years similar experience and college degree or relevant coursework preferred. Starting salary, depending on qualifications and experience, up to \$38,500 with full benefits.

Submit a cover letter, resume and three references by target date of March 6, 2015 to James M. Mazik, AICP - Deputy Director, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, Springfield, MA 01104. The PVPC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion and disability in employment or the provision of services. An AA/EEO.

Help Wanted

FOSTER CARE: YOU can help change someone's life. Provide a safe home for children and teens who have been abused or neglected. Call Devereux Therapeutic Foster Care at **413-734-2493**.

MACHINE OPERATORS AND MANUAL ASSEMBLY

personnel needed in the Palmer area. Must have a consistent work history, HS Diploma, and be able to fill out basic operation forms. Please apply to www.unitedpersonnel.com

MAINTENANCE FOREMAN-GENERAL maintenance, grounds keeping, laborer wanted. Mechanical skills a plus. We are looking for an energetic, able bodied person to fill this full time position. Benefit package. Prefer to have someone that has a class D1 water license and a hoisting license. If interested in this position please send a resume to: Pine Valley Plantation Coop., 281 Chauncey Walker St., OFC 30, Belchertown, MA 01007.

MAINTENANCE/HANDYMAN AN ACTIVE adult condominium community is seeking a part time maintenance/handyman assistant. Must possess experience in care of property & building maintenance, landscaping including knowledge of zero-turn mowers & snow blowers. Must have excellent people skills. Interested candidates should fax resume with cover letter to: **413-596-5320** or e-mail melissa@thegardensofwilbraham.com. Managed by Athena Communities, EOE

POLICE OFFICER- TOWN of Wilbraham. Applicants must be HS graduates. Candidates possessing a certificate of completion from an approved Massachusetts Police Academy or having received comparable training recognized by the Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee for full time police officers are preferred. Position requires a valid Mass. driver's license, firearms license, first responder and AED/CPR certification; the ideal candidate offers additional coursework in law enforcement related subjects, or an Associates Degree in Law Enforcement, and 2+ years of related work experience. The Town offers a hiring rate of \$985.15 weekly base pay, a professional work environment, competitive benefits package, rotating four on/two off (8-hour) shift schedule. Interested parties must complete an Employment Application available at Board of Selectmen's Office, Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 (or print from town website at: www.wilbraham-ma.gov). Applications must be received by 4:30 pm March 13, 2015. EOE

Help Wanted

PART-TIME- RN, HHA'S, CNA's Positions available at Professional Medical Services, Inc. Competitive rates & mileage. EOE. Call Jan Mon., Tues., Fri. 9am-3pm. **(413)289-9018**

PCA'S, HHA'S AND CNA's needed in Monson, Brimfield, Hampden, Palmer, Ware and Belchertown. Highest wages for home care agency. Days, Nights and weekends. Must have reliable transportation and verifiable work references. Call HomeStaff **(413)746-0066**.

THE TOWN OF LUDLOW is accepting applications for an Office Assistant at the Police Dept. Responsibilities will be to process records requests, review and process permit applications and incidents reports and process payroll on weekly basis. Applicants must have excellent customer service skills; be able to handle sensitive information and maintain extreme confidentiality. Knowledge of Microsoft Office is required. This is a 21 hour a week position w/ benefits. Salary range is \$15.92 - \$19.59 per hr. Must be able to work a flexible schedule/extra hours when needed. 2-3 years of related work exp. preferred. Interested candidates should send letter of interest, resume and application to Human Resources Dept., 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow MA 01056 or via email cribeiro@ludlow.ma.us. Applications are available at www.ludlow.ma.us under Human Resources. Closing date is Thurs., March 5th by cob. EOE

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| CLAUDIO SANTORO | 413-813-8257 |
| MERRIE BROWN | 413-668-8190 |
| KAYE BOOTHMAN | 413-477-6624 |
| JILL GRAVEL | 413-364-7353 |

LUDLOW- CONDO FOR sale. 2 beds, 2 baths 1,645 sq.ft. Great Meadow Crest Townhouse Condominium with Hardwood floors, white kitchen cabinetry, and spacious rooms with a covered back deck off the dining area for maximum sun exposure and peaceful enjoyment. Finished Family Room in basement, with attached 1 car garage. Close to Mass Pike and walking distance to Randall's Farm! For more information or to view this condo call Chris Bloom **413-687-5743**, Gallagher Real Estate.

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SPENCER: Approximately 75 feet of waterfront on Sugden Reservoir. Property being sold "As Is", Great price for investor or handyman. \$120,000

EAST BROOKFIELD: New Cape in High Rock Estates, 1st floor Master BR, Master BA glass shower & soaking tub, upscale KT/LR, laundry, half bath, hardwoods. 2nd floor 2 large BR, and BA. \$339,900

WARE: Motivated Seller, 3 BR colonial with central location and original charm, affordably priced at \$89,900

WARREN: Investors take notice, Handyman Special! 2 BR, spacious rooms, wood floors, screened in porch, being sold "As Is" \$79,900

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Mobile Homes

WESTFIELD BY HU-KE-LAU Completely remodeled, appliances, thermopanes, shingles, shed, 2 bedrooms, 12'x67'. New carpets, floors, windows, doors \$59,900 **413-593-9961**
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For Rent

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PALMER 1BR - Quiet Secure Country Location. Locked Storage & Laundry in Basement. K/DR Combo - LR-Full Bath. Nice Layout. No Smoke/Pets. 1st/last/sec. \$700.00. Breton Est. **413-283-6940**

WARE- 2 TOWNHOUSE APTS.-SPACIOUS, SUNNY 3 BR \$800 & \$850 plus utilities, w/d hook-up, storage. **Also Beautiful 2 BR** apt. \$700. No smoking, no pets. Credit check/references **(413)320-5784**.

WARE- LARGE 2 bedroom, 1st floor apt. All new kitchen, floors & paint. Updated bath. Water & sewer included. Off-street parking, oil heat. First & security \$750/ mo **(413)967-7772**

LUDLOW DUPLEX AVAIL 4/1, 4 rm, 1.5 baths, garage, stove, & fridge incl., no pets/smoking, \$850 mo. 1st, last & sec. dep. **413-896-6353**

For Rent

FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

MONSON. 3 BEDROOM. Completely renovated, propane heat, lower than oil, \$100 toward first fill-up. **NO PETS!!!** \$900/ mo. F/L/S **(413)783-0192**. Mr. Allen.

PALMER 2 BR. \$925/ mo. 1 mi to Pike. Beautifully renovated. Off-street parking. Utilities not included. Available March 1. **(413)427-2706**.

WARE FRESHLY PAINTED 2 bdrm, first floor, off-street parking, coin-op laundry. HAP subsidized. No pets. **(413)323-8707**

WARE- LARGE STUDIO apartment. Close to downtown. Electric/ propane heat. Water & sewer included. Good area. First & Security \$475/ mo **(413)967-7772**.

Commercial Rentals

200 SILVER STREET: 3,150 sq. ft. of medical/professional space for lease in a Class A building in Agawam. Join Baystate, Mercy Medical and other quality tenants. Highly visible on Route 75 and easy access to Rte. 57 and I-91. For more information call Development Associates at **413-789-3720** or visit us at www.devassociates.com

Commercial Rentals

317 MEADOW STREET: 4,000 - 10,000 sq. ft. of industrial flex space available for lease. Features private offices, manufacturing warehousing workspace, as well as dock & drive-in access. Centrally located to serve the region with easy access to I-90, I-391 and I-291. For more information call Development Associates at **413-789-3720** or visit us at www.devassociates.com

630 SILVER STREET: 2,000 - 4,550 sq. ft. flex space in multi-tenant building located in Agawam industrial park setting. Two spaces leased together or separately. For more information call Development Associates at **413-789-3720** or visit us at www.devassociates.com

INDUSTRIAL ZONED. FOUR buildings available, 500 to 5,000 sq.ft. Breckenridge St., Palmer. Also entertain offers for sale 10 acres **(413)231-3131**.

Vacation Rentals

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Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote free events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 413-786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Sunday, March 1

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS will host their annual Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a day full of family activities, performances, a cake contest, and an appearance by the Cat in the Hat himself. For more information and admission prices, call 413-263-6800, ext. 488, or visit springfieldmuseums.org.

Monday, March 2

ST. DAVID'S CHURCH, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, will host a community supper at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5 to 12, and free for children under 5.

The menu will include stuffed roast pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, dessert and beverage.

AGAWAM FAMILY & COMMUNITY PROGRAM will host "Reading Alive" with Enchanted Circle Theater from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. A fun, interactive literacy workshop designed to engage children and family audiences in dramatic readings and expressive arts activities.

Friday, March 6

THE ACC APPLAUSE SERIES continues with a performance of traditional Irish music by "Banish Misfortune," including traditional jigs, waltzes, polkas and more beginning at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St.

JAY LEVY, SOCIAL WORKER, ADVOCATE AND AUTHOR of "Homeless Narratives & Pretreatment Pathways: From Words to Housing," will be the guest speaker at Springfield Technical Community College, 1 Armory St., at 10:10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. in Scibelli Hall (Building 2).

Tuesday, March 10

AGAWAM FAMILY & COMMUNITY PROGRAM will host "Mom 2 Mom" from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St. Informal roundtable discussions for all parents to discuss topics recently presented at a Parent Café and/or Parent Education event. Inquire about community resources. Find support and encouragement. Registration not required. Free childcare available.

THE AGAWAM GARDEN CLUB will meet at 7 p.m. at the Pheasant Hill Village Community Room in Feeding Hills. Attendees are asked to bring a hand tool, decorative pot, indoor plant or reference book and take one home. Refreshments will be served. Non-members are welcome.

AGAWAM FAMILY & COMMUNITY PROGRAM will host a Memory Journal Event for children from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. Children will learn to create a memory journal that they will enjoy and treasure for years come. Registration is required; limited space is available.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS will hold a blood drive to benefit Mercy Medical Center's blood bank from 2 to 6 p.m. at St. John's Church, 833 Main St., Agawam. For more information, call 413-786-3091.

A FREE HOME-BUYING SEMINAR will be offered at Keller Williams Realty, Inc., 360 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills from 6:30 to 8 p.m. For more information, call 413-519-2014 or email tiffanyMsmith@kw.com.

Wednesday, March 11

THE AGAWAM COMMUNITY ARTISTS AND ARTISANS will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the community room of the

Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., and will feature Loretta Medeiros, acrylic artist. Guests are welcome.

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam, will hold an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

Friday, March 13

CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER hosted by the Agawam Lions Club at Agawam High School, 760 Cooper St., from 5-7 p.m. Tickets available at the door, in advance from any Lions Club member, at Southgate Liquors or Bob's Barber Shop on Maple St.

Saturday, March 14

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FR. THOMAS SHEA COUNCIL 11178 will host a St. Patrick's Day Dinner Saturday, March 14, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Lake Church, 224 Sheep Pasture Road, Southwick. Tickets are \$8 per person for adults, \$5 for children, and free for children 5 and under. For more information, call District Deputy Al Matos, at 413-569-6914.

Saturday, March 21

AGAWAM COMMUNITY & FAMILY PROGRAM will host the Agawam Community Informational Fair from 9 a.m. to noon in the Agawam High School cafeteria, 760 Cooper St. A great opportunity to learn about many local organizations providing services to families. Free child identification with MYCHIP, free Teddy Bear Clinic and face painting. Presentations by Firefighter Pam, Zoo on the Go and more.

Tuesday, March 24

AGAWAM COMMUNITY & FAMILY PROGRAM WILL HOST "Healthy Sleeping" facilitated by Behavior Health Network from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. It will focus on the science of sleep and the impact of sleep habits on development and behavior in children. Registration is not required.

Tuesday, March 31

AGAWAM FAMILY & COMMUNITY PROGRAM will offer Parent Café from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., or 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. Janet Brown will help parents identify and recognize the skills required for a child to read, and offer practical ways to create a positive reading environment in your home. Free childcare available in the morning only.

Friday, April 10

THE CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR ANIMALS will host a benefit tag sale Friday, April 10, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and

Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Wachogue Congregational Church, 80 Arvilla St., Springfield. For information to donate items, call Susan at 413-782-9006. All proceeds will help dogs and cats in need in Western Massachusetts.

ONGOING

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. No registration needed.

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 459 Mill St., Agawam, offers "Crochet Club" every other Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This club is open to all needle-workers, including crocheters, knitters, quilters, and embroiderers. For more information, call 413-786-7991.

THE LADIES GLEE CLUB AND MEN'S CHOIR at the Springfield Turnverein, 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, are back to work. Practice is held every Wednesday with the ladies beginning at 7 p.m. followed by the men at 8:30 p.m. All are welcome. There is space available for anyone interested in joining.

A BLOOD CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, 6 to 7:30 p.m., in the conference room of Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. A light dinner is served. For more information or to register, call 413-789-0200, visit www.springfieldmed.com, or email survivorshipprogram@gmail.com.

A BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 6 to 7:15 p.m. at office of Maryann Paleologopoulou LICSW, Inc., 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam (at the rotary). Refreshments served. For more information or to register, call 413-789-0200, visit www.springfieldmed.com, or email survivorshipprogram@gmail.com.

THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FAMILY PLAYGROUP, which takes place at the church at 745 Main St., Agawam, is open to children birth through age 5 with a parent or caregiver and meets weekly on Thursdays from 9:30-11 a.m. It includes crafts, stories, songs, free play and more. For more information, call 413-786-7111 or email jbrownacc@verizon.net.

A CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP meets the third Thursday of each month, 6 to 7:30 p.m., at the office of Maryann Paleologopoulou LICSW, Inc., 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam (at the rotary). Refreshments served. For more information or to register, call 413-789-0200, visit www.springfieldmed.com, or email survivorshipprogram@gmail.com.

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Snow day at the library

The Agawam Public Library held a Winter Fun Festival on Saturday. The public event, sponsored by the library's Teen Council, offered an afternoon of fun involving crafts, games, face painting and snacks for local children and their families.



There was an array of color options for face painting.



Patrick the Penguin and his beanbag toss was a big hit.



Diane Frogament and her two-year-old daughter Leanna Frogament craft an edible snowman out of marshmallows, candies and pretzels.



Serenity McMahon, 7, of Agawam, sits patiently as a snowflake is painted on her face.



Amanda Lareau, 6 enjoys the event with her furry fox friend.



Four-year-old Peyton Fleagle pieces together a paper snowflake wreath.



Children await their turn at beanbag toss.



Juliana Castro, 5 sits sufficiently entertained by her new toy.